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HOLIDAYS FOR THE TO BE WON

See page 25 for det

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THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 1995

OJ professes love for dead wife as lawyers squabble

TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles RUPERT CORNWELL

"People don't seem to understand that I loved that woman, were OJ Simpson's first words to the world yesterday after he was acquitted of the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

After rumours of an early press conference, the former sports star only talked briefly about his first night of liberty to

a producer at Cable News Network, which had covered most of his trial live. He was very hap-py, but "I haven't really had a chance to breathe," he was quoted as saying.

"Yesterday there was a festive mood at the house. But at the same time my kids don't have a mother. People don't seem to understand that I loved that

As Los Angeles seemed to breathe a deep sigh of relief yes-terday, a bizarre collection of Angelenos, from the crush of

reporters to a jazz band to women protesting against domestic abuse, kept vigil outside the former football star's estate,

struggling for a glimpse of him.
A friend of Mr Simpson's emerged and said he was tired, needed rest, and would stay in seclusion. "The only people who are going to be talking to you are his lawyers."

Mr Simpson's advisers have many reasons to be careful over how they orchestrate his return to the world. Polls yesterday showed that 50 per cent of Americans disagreed with the "not guilty" verdict, returned by will not talk to F Lee Bailey a jury in only four hours after a nme-month trial. He still faces civil law suits from the victims' families, and negotiations with the parents of Nicole over the return of the couple's children,

Justin, seven, and Sydney, nine. The subject of the most wide-y watched trial in US history had not been at liberty five hours when his high-priced defence team began falling out. Robert L Shapiro, the origi-

nal leader of the defence, yes-

again." He said he did not think the man who - at least until Johnny Cochran's advent on the scene - was the most famous trial lawyer in the country

should even have been in court. For Mr Cochran, who supplanted him as lead lawyer, Mr Shapiro also had harsh words. bitterly attacking his use of the race issue in closing arguments and his comparison of a key wits, the former detective Mark Fuhrman, to Adolf Hitler.

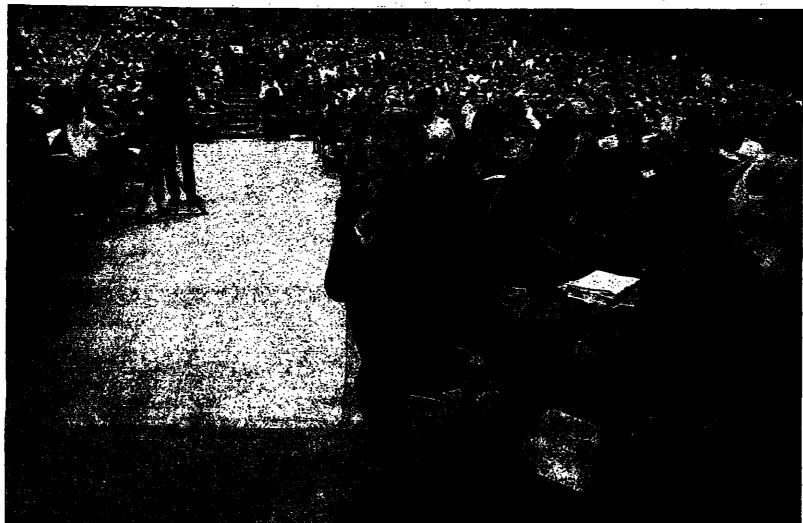
All along Mr Shapiro, who is Jewish, insisted that race was not a factor. "But not only did we play the race card, we dealt it from the bottom of the deck." As for the Hitler comparison, "I was deeply offended ... with Hitler came the Holocaust, and to compare this man in any way

to a rogue cop was wrong."
Mr Cochran hit back, saying: Bob Shapiro has a problem ... his ego has really gotten crushed in the course of this trial ... I feel very sorry for him. Bob is better

After a frantic media chase But at every turn the defence had to the homes of the 12 jurors in undermined the credibility of po-lice evidence. The most damag-ing witness, he said, was Dr the trial, only one - Lionel Cryer, a 44-year-old black telephone company representative - talked in any depth about their Henry Lee, a defence patholostunningly quick decision. The gist who called into question the prosecution's DNA evidence.
The jurors celebrated with first vote by jurors on Monday morning reached a 10 to 2 ver-dict in favour of acquittal, he

smoked salmon and champagne said. After rechecking the tes-timony of chauffeur Allan Park, at the Intercontinental Hotel on Monday night, staff reported. They had not been allowed alcrepancies in his evidence, and cohol since 11 January.

The aftermath, page 3 Gary McDowell, page 21



Time out: Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, who made his first speech from the floor in 20 years yesterday. Photograph: John Voos

Blair backed over opt-out schools

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, yesterday secured an impressive victory over Labour critics of his policy on opt-out schools only to face a further test for "new" Labour when the conference divides today on a motion to scrap the Trident nuclear submarine programme.

The victory by a three-to-one majority followed a highly charged debate in which David Blunkett, education spokesman, rounded on Roy Hattersley, former deputy leader, who had called on the party to stop propping up the "failed" system of grant-maintained schools.

role of darling of the party's left wing, received a standing ovation after calling for a concerted drive against the country's remaining 150 grammar schools and declaring: "For God's sake let's stop apologising about comprehensive schools."

But the conference defeated 76.4 to 23.6 per cent a call for all schools to be returned to direct local authority control af-ter Mr Blunkett pledged the "renewal" of comprehensive education and that schools in the poorest areas would be given priority in funding.

Instead it approved a new policy under which the opt-out

Mr Hattersley, in what would schools would be absorbed into have the right to vote on have once been the implausible a new category of "foundation whether to retain them. a new category of "foundation schools" which Mr Blunkett, who was also given a standing ovation, emphasised would be

> Inside Conference reports pages 10,11 Leading article

page 20 Andrew Man page 21

prohibited from any form of selection academic or "social", by interview or examination. Parents in the catchment areas of

existing grammar schools would

Mr Blunkett scorned those who "believe that they and they alone are the custodians of the Holy Grail".

Bitterness over Mr Blair's decision to send his son, Euan, to the Oratory, a Roman Catholic GM school in west London, surfaced when Margaret Rosher, a retired teacher from Coventry, said she felt a "a great sense of betrayal" at the decision by the party leader and Harriet Harman, employment spokeswoman, to send their children to opt-out schools. But allies of Mr Blair were pleased that most constituency

Meanwhile party managers averted one possible defeat today when the national executive decided not to call today, because of lack of time, two motions seeking a cut in defence spending to the West European average. The executive had voted at the weekend by 14 to 7 to oppose the call. But managers feared a close vote on a unilateralist motion to scrap Trident, which could be used to undermine Mr Blair's projection of Labour as the "patriotic" par-

ty. They were also predicting a

close vote on the pledge to hold a referendum on electoral re-

form after the election - though

against international criminals. The Independent also understands that about 20 officers from MI5 are to help NCIS with surveillance and analysis of data. The moves follow calls from a growing number of se-nior police officers for a new national tier of detectives.

reformers in the party were still predicting a decisive majority. I party Home Affairs Select

Britain to get FBI-style crime force

they concluded there were dis-

a second vote was unanimous.

Mr Cryer claimed the race

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Britain is to get an FBI-style national crime unit, whose staff will include MI5 agents, under proposals being examined by chief constables. The *Indepen*dent has learnt that police chiefs and the Home Office are close to agreeing to the radical measure for a task force whose first targets will be organised crime

and major drug traffickers. It is also understood that staff ioin forces with the Home Office's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) as part of a new role in policing for MI5. The move is likely to be announced next week at the

Conservative Party conference. But in a more far-reaching development, the Home Office has given its support to proposals under debate by chief constables to expand the role and powers of NCIS to include an operational arm in the fight

against organised crime. Details of a new task force at NCIS - which currently has 500 staff and can only carry out limited surveillance and information gathering - will be discussed next week at the Association of Chief Police Officers' autumn conference. It is hoped that eventually the unit will be able to mount operations.

Earlier this year the cross-

Committee concluded that a nathe Home Office and given the tional strategy was needed to combat organised crime. Con-

money laundering, illegal gambling, prostitution, extortion, fraud, and credit card crime. Last month, Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, gave his support to the formation of a national force on the lines of the Amer-He said the structure of regionally autonomous police forces was inadequate to deal with so-

cern is growing that organised

criminals are expanding their

firearms, counterfeit currency,

traffickers and criminals. Most police chiefs now believe an expansion of NCIS is the answer. Any new unit is expected to be given greater powers to carry out operations and mobile surveillance. NCIS officers may also have arrest powers conferred upon them.

phisticated international drug

Among the other issues un-der discussion are whether NCIS should be separated from

status of a new police force, which could include its own chief constable and possibly a form of policing authority to which it would be accountable.

business in drugs, the sale of As part of an expansion of NCIS, the Government has agreed to extend the role of MI5 and allow it to use some officers in traditional policing. At first only about two dozen members of the security service, which employs 2,000, are expected to join. The police fear that Stelgeneral, will try to use this as the first step towards a far greater role for her organisation. Jim Sharples, the incoming Acpo president and Chief Constable of Merseyside, refused to comment directly on any plans being considered, but said: "We [Acpo] believe that if the security services are to become involved they have to work in a

supportive role within NCIS."
He added that anyone involved in criminal justice must be accountable.

Rimington lecture, page 2

Archdeacon: 'Ambushed'

Nuclear test 'deal'

France carried out its second

nuclear test after securing

agreement from Jacques Santer,

the European Commission

President, that the Commission

would not use European law to

stop the tests, according to a

diplomatic memorandum seen

by the Independent. Page 15

Archdeacon ousted in a very religious coup

parties backed the new policy.

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Venerable George Austin, the best-known opponent of women priests in the Church of England, is the victim of a coup mounted against him by two of his fellow archdeacons

Archdeacon Austin sits in the General Synod, the Church's "Parliament", as representa-

IN BRIEI

A police investigation into

rlaims of "improper collusion"

between journalists and wit-

lesses was ordered after a judge

halted criminal proceedings against Geoffrey Knights, lover

of the EastEnders actress Gillian

Taylforth, because he would

not get a fair hearing. Page 2

Comoros coup crushed

French troops landed in the Co-

moros Islands, an archipelago

in the Indian Ocean, and over-

turned a six-day coup led by the

66-year-old former French mer-

Knights trial halted

Christopher Hawthorn, Archdeacon of Cleveland, and the Ven Hugh Buckingham, Archdeacon of the East Riding, have refused to endorse his appointment.

To make matters worse they did not tell Archdeacon Austin that chooses diocesan bishops,

Sex abuse 'cover-up'

The Irish Catholic Church faced

new claims of covering up sex

abuse by members of its clergy

with the revelation that IR£50,000 damages had been

paid to a former altar boy who

alleged he was the victim of ex-

treme sex assaults between the

Teenage Triad recruits

Thenagers from British gangs

are being recruited by Chinese

"Triad" gangsters to help run their criminal empires, a con-

ference of senior police officers

ages of 9 and 11.

danger of being forced out because his colleagues, the Ven maining on the Synod - by standing as a candidate for election by all his fellow clergy. As one of the longest-serving

and most powerful politicians on the Synod, he is also a member the Crown Appointments Commission, the committee

tive of the three archdeacons of their decision until after the and appoints to the Church the diocese of York, but is in deadline had passed for him to Commissioners. He will be forced to vacate these positions if he is not appointed as representative of the three archdea-

> "They ambushed him in a way from which he has no defence," said Fr John Broadhurst, chairman of Forward in Faith. the group that co-ordinates opposition to women priests in the ted adultery.

cons of the diocese of York.

Church of England. "They behaved in a way you wouldn't behave to your worst enemies. It is the sort of thing you would expect in Fleet Street but not in the church of Jesus Christ. The whole thing is disgusting."

Archdeacon Austin caused a national storm by suggesting that Prince Charles was unfit to be King because of his admit-



News Analysis: Can the NHS afford its expensive telecoms revolution really holds OJ go free

Page 21 Leading article: "Croatia should be told that it can

Weather: Most regions in England and Wales will be bright and blustery with sunny spells and showers, mainly in western



BUSINESS 22-27 COMMENT 20,21 CROSSWORD 32 GAZETTE 18 LAW REPORT 18 LEADING ARTICLES 20 LETTERS 20 NEWS 2-17 OBITUARIES 18 SHARES 26 SPORT 28-32 UNIT TRUSTS 27

cenary, Bob Denard. Page 16 | was told.



THE SAME OLD SCHOOLTIE EWO.

Page 19 Hamish McRae asks how much promise Labour's Page 19 Gary McDowell defends the legal system that let Page 21 AH Halsey reviews John Rentoul's biography of Tony expect no political favours or economic concessions unless the guilty are brought to justice." Page 20 Section Two, page 33

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Papers face inquiry after trial collapses Two held over game drugs haul Police claimed a major to the police claimed a major

Media Correspondent

A police investigation into claims of "improper collusion" between iournalists and witnesses in a criminal trial was ordered yesterday by the Solicitor General, Sir Derek Spencer.

The move followed the decision by the trial judge, Roger Sanders, to halt proceedings against Geoffrey Knights, the

RHYS WILLIAMS

Newspapers are in breach of the

1981 Contempt of Court Act if

they publish material that carries a "substantial risk of prejudice" to a fair trial. Lawyers

said yesterday that the only

risk some elements of the press

considered when deciding what to publish was whether or not

Judge Roger Sanders ruled

vesterday that the reporting in

national tabloids following Ge-

offrey Knights' arrest last East-

er for assault bordered on

developing into a "hate cam-

paign".
Once Mr Knights had been charged, the Daily Mirror ran an

account of the alleged incident

by the supposed victim, Martin

Davies. Today and the Sun also

carried accounts of the alleged attack, while the Daily Mail

ran an interview apparently with Gillian Taylforth about

her life with Knights. In it, the writer, Lynda Lee-Potter, men-

tioned an assault on the soap

star, along with Mr Knights' pre-

vious convictions - despite the fact that Miss Taylforth was a

Sunday Mirror also ran pieces ei-

ther about the alleged inci-

dent, the couple's stormy

relationship or Mr Knights'

past history. Much of this would

legal costs, the judge added: "I

was tempted to consider mak-

ing a wasted costs order against

the individuals of the press I

flect against the real matter ...

penalties than I can impose."

While Judge Sanders is tech-

"However, I think it will de-

have named.

After granting Mr Knights his

have featured in his trial,

main prosecution witness. The Daily Express, Star and

they would be prosecuted.

Gillian Taylforth, because "un-lawful, misleading, scandalous" sole reason for ordering crim-inal proceedings to be "stayed", and malicious" pre-trial reporting meant he would not get a fair hearing.

Judge Sanders told Harrow Crown Court that a "grave abuse of process" by the media had forced him to "stay" Mr Knights's forthcoming trial on wounding and assault charges. This is believed to be the first time "adverse publicity" has been successfully cited as the

nically correct, lawyers believe that newspapers flagrantly ig-

nore the law's contempt of

court provisions secure in the

knowledge that the Attorney General will not bring pro-

Last year, the Taylor sisters'

conviction for murder was

quashed by the Court of Appeal

after it decided that it would

have been impossible for the

jury not to have been influenced

by prejudicial and inaccurate

press reporting of the trial.

This summer, however, the At-

torney General refused to bring

contempt proceedings against

Anthony Scrivener QC, a former chairman of the Bar,

the newspapers concerned.

said it was the Attorney Gen-

eral's past failure to enforce the

law that had led to falling stan-

eral, unlike his predecessors, has

continually refused to take ac-

tion in the clearest possible cases of contempt," he said.

"This decision [in the Knights case] is a direct result of the At-

torney General's inaction. If you

have got an Attorney General

who is determined not to an-

tagonise the press or the media,

nothing will happen and stan-

Mark Stephens, the solicitor

who acted for the Taylor sisters,

welcomed Judge Sanders' rul-

ing as "a strong judgment by a

brave judge". He added: "If we find our-

selves in a position where trials

cannot go ahead, justice will not

be done and guilty people will

a greater and greater slide to-

wards cross-examination of ev-

presumption of guilt in the

body of newspaper reports and that's the problem."

Keith Mathieson, a partner at the law firm Oswald Hickson,

dards will continue to slip."

"The present Attorney Gen-

dards in the media.

'like a hate

campaign'

a legal term meaning the case will never be heard.

Sir Derek also directed that the case papers be sent to the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, so that he could then consider contempt of court proceedings against the editors of the Sun, Today, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, the People, Daily Express and Daily

stormy on-off relationship with Miss Taylforth, was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Martin Davies, the actress's driver, on Easter Sunday this year outside the couple's home in Whetstone, north London. He also faced an alternative charge of unlawful wounding, but had

denied both counts at an earlier hearing.
Following Mr Knight's arrest

Mr Knights, who has had a and police charges, the tabloid Press ran a series of reports car-rying accounts of the alleged attack on Mr Davies and of alleged previous violent be-

haviour towards Miss Taylforth. "From then on what one would have expected to be treated as sub judice became an opportunity for certain newspaper editors to take it upon themselves to try Mr Knights in their columns without giving him a hearing," the judge said.

After hearing pre-trial sub-missions from both sets of counsel last Friday, Judge Sanders told the court in a highly critical, eight-page judgement yesterday: "I have absolutely no doubt that the mass of media publicity in this case was unfair.

outrageous and oppressive. 'I also believe that there are grounds for instituting proceedings against the editors concerned and there is an urgent need to investigate the pos-

sibility that certain journalists have colluded with and suborned prosecution witnesses. A Mirror Group spokesman

denied that any of its titles had published stories with a substantial risk of serious prejudice to the Knights case.

Paul Dacre, editor of the Daily Mail, said the newspaper took the Contempt of Court Act very seriously and would be "defending our position vigor ously".

Police claimed a major breakthrough in tackling the illegal trade in the "sleeping death" drug Temazepam yesterday after the seizure of £8m worth

chike be released their

of capsules. Officers from the South-east regional crime squad said the 2 million yellow "jellies" found in a lorry on a trading estate near Heathrow were probably destined for Glasgow. Two men were helping with inquiries.

Cancer cure award A British biochemist at the forefront of the battle against cancer will receive the £120,000 Yvette Mayent prize in Paris today from the Curie Institute. Professor David Lane, of Dundee University, discovered

protein p53, which is thought to

hold the key to a cure. Supercar theft

A £1m prototype car stolen from a motel car-park off the M2 was recovered in Gillingham, Kent, minus its trailer. The Renault Safrane supercar was being transported from France to Peterborough for tests with a specialist technology firm.

Slug pellet poisoner

A man who admitted trying to poison his former girlfriend with slug pellets was jailed for 18 months. John Mullins, 39, of Palmouth, Cornwall, broke into 21-year-old Anna Whatmore's home and put granules of the blue pellets into food and drink.

Spiders shut school Children at Bembridge primary school on the Isle of Wight were sent home after pest control officials were called in following an invasion of slightly poisonous steatoda noblis spiders, from the Canary Islands.

Shooting error

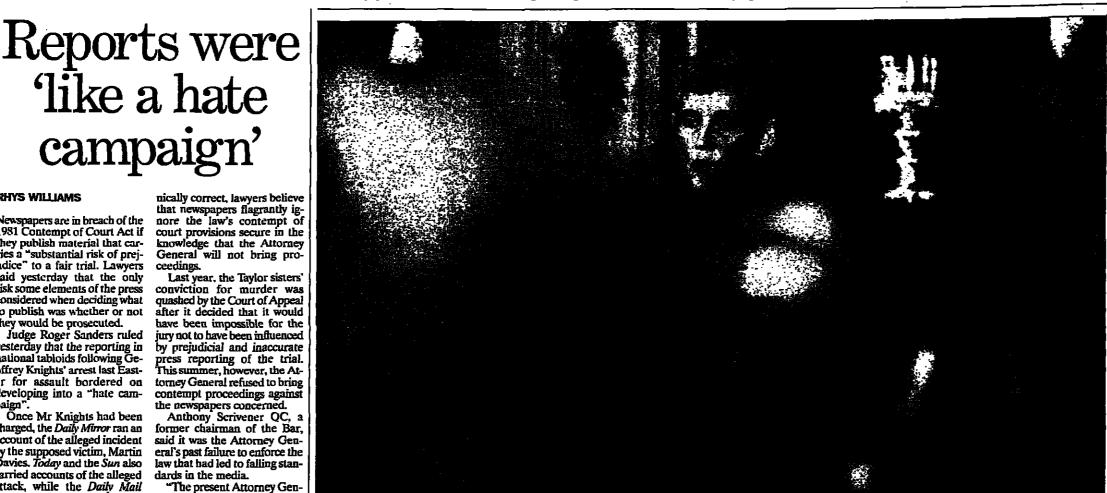
A man was arrested for attempted murder after calling police because he feared raiders were stealing tiles from his home in Aldington, Kent. He mistakenly opened fire with a shotgun on officers who responded. Two officers were treated for shock and a patrol car was damaged.

Tourist record

Britain's summer heatwave drew 2.62 million overseas visitors in July - beating the previous record of 2.58 million in August 1994, the International Passenger Survey provisional statistics showed.

A teenager caught smoking against regulations on a National Express coach was told to get off - 100 miles from home. John Iles, 15, of Mangotsfield, Avon, was dropped outside a police station in Walsall, West

Smoked out



Out of the shadows: Stella Rimington speaking in London yesterday

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Stella Rimington, the head of MI5, yesterday spelt out the security service's credentials for its planned move onto the traditional policing territory of

organiséd crime Speaking in London, she said the ease and speed of modern communications and travel, and the weakening of border controls, made it inevitable that organised crime, such as drug trafficking and money laundering, would continue to grow. Countering the threat successfully would require similar methods to those employed in counter-terrorism, she said.

clarify crime strategy detailing how MI5 had, for the negotiating for an anti-crime cently that there was great past 25 years, co-ordinated role for officers previously used strength in exploiting the talents

MI5 chief goes public to

intelligence work against both IRA and Loyalist groups in Britain and Europe - with "rarely visible" sticcess. The Government has agreed to allow MI5 to expand its role into fighting organised crime, representing a victory for the MI5 director-general who, since

on anti-terrorisi work. Mrs Rimington employs about 2,000 full-time staff and

has an annual budget of £150m. Chief constables are understood to have agreed the move but are determined to restrict MISto a supporting role. Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said re-

and powers - of all agencies. But lawyers and civil rights campaigners are concerned about MI5's lack of public ac-countability and the culture of secrecy that engulfs the service. Addressing the English Speaking Union last night, Mrs Rimington said that economic

rity in the post-Cold War world. Increasingly, MI5 was forging links with other governments and their intelligence agencies to share information on mutual concerns such international terrorist activity. But the new order also cre ated conditions which encour-

Photograph: Edward Sykes

proliferation of mass-destruc-

ion weapons - as well as or-

ganised crime - were seen as the

major threats to national secu-

age the growth of... 'organised crime'," Mrs Rimington said. She added: "This phenomenon is comparatively new. In many countries, including the UK. its impact and seriousness

UN set to investigate Gibraltar shootings

said: "Certain tabloids seem to say 'Sod the risk to the trial, what's the risk we'll be prosecuted .' However, Sir Derek Spencer,

the Solicitor General, strongly rejected suggestions that the Attorney General had failed to up-hold the law and warned the press not to try to push the boundaries of what could be reported.

"It is absolute nonsense to say that the Attorney isn't upholding the law. If the media do feel that they can push back the boundaries of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, they are making a big mistake and they will end up in court."

HEATHER MILLS

Another embarrassing investi-gation into the SAS killing of the three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar is threatening to engulf the Government, this time by the United Nations.

The families of the three are asking the UN's special rapporteur on "extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions" to investigate the 1988 killings. The move will further infu-

riate ministers, still outraged at last week's condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights, which concluded that the killings were unlawful and have been arrested.

the IRA cease-fire, has been

While the rapporteur, Bacre Waly Ndiaye, does not have binding judicial powers, a damning UN investigation would be very damaging to a government anxious to defend

it human rights record. It is almost certain he will agree to the inquiry. He is al-ready looking into three individual killings in Northern Ireland - including the loyalist shooting of the solicitor Pat Finnucane, a case in which it has been suggested that the terrorists were acting in collusion with intelligence personnel.

The families of the Gibraltar ing in the SAS, have never IRA unit have turned to the been examined - either by the UN, because they maintain that - despite the Strasbourg judgment - a "cover-up at the high-est level" has still blocked a

thorough investigation.
The use of Public Interest Immunity certificates - effectively gagging orders signed by ministers - has prevented investigation into anything other than the immediate events leading up to the killings on the Rock. The longer-term planning of the operation by military and security service intelligence, including a crucial meeting of ministers which sanctioned call-

inquest into deaths or by the human rights judges. The families maintain it would disclose a preplanned plot to kill the three scenario ruled out by the

European Court. Neither has anyone heard evidence from the Spanish police whose account of tailing the three to the border and, effectively, handing them over to the British authorities, flatly contradicts the official account that one of the trio Sean Savage drove what was believed to be a "bomb car" on to the Rock un-

Ever since Savage, Mairead Farrell, and Daniel McCann were brought down in a hail of bullets on 6 March 1988, doubts over the official version of their deaths have haunted the Government.

Ministers had hoped that the European Court would have the last word on the matter. But it now seems certain to rumble on.

Yesterday, Niall Farrell, brother of Mairead, said: "We simply want the whole truth. The UN, we hope, can get to the bottom of this scandal, which we firmly believe leads to the heart

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Belgum 14,500 traly 14,500 CanadesPts300 Madeira ... Esc325 Cyprus CE1.20 Malta 43 cents Denmark.....Nid20 France Fr14 Spain Pts300 Germany DM4.5 Sweden. Skr20 Greace Dr450 Switzerland . Str4.00

Air mail, 13 weeks: Europe £110.78; Zone 1 04id de East, America, Africa and India: £184.08; Zono 2 (Fee East and Australasia) 5206,70. Ye order, cleans send chease parable to Johnsone treemational Ma de Services Lid to 43 Millherbour, London E14 9TR or telephone 01.71-538 8268. Credit cards we

Luxembourg ... 1F60 USA \$3.00

Knights: Granted costs Miss GRRRIMALDI but never miss GRRRAHAM'S Just roll it round your tongue GRAHAM'S

German court agrees to Leeson extradition

of the British Establishment."

DAVID HELLIER

A German court yesterday approved the extradition to Sin-gapore of Nick Leeson, the former Barings futures trader, with the bank's collapse.

The decision by the Frankfurt Regional Court does not mean immediate extradition for Mr Leeson but it looks increasing-ly likely now that he will eventually face trial in Singapore. Yesterday's decision still has to be reviewed by the German

government in Bonn and Mr Leeson's lawyers have made it clear that they will appeal to the German Federal Constitution-

The Frankfurt court, as expected, yesterday upheld Mr Leeson's extradition on three charges of forgery, two of de-frauding Barings Futures Sin-gapore and six of defrauding the Singapore International Monetary Exchange. The court dismissed a charge of falsification of documents, ironically the one on which Mr Leeson was first held when he was arrest-

ed in Germany in March. The Frankfurt public prosecutor, Hans-Hermann Eckert, said the court had considered



Legal blow: Nick Leeson

Singapore's legal standards and had received a report from the German embassy. Mr Eckert held out little

chance of the defence being able to block extradition to Singapore. "The chances not to go to Singapore are very small," he said. He said that his view was that Mr Leeson was certain to get a fair trial in Singapore.

Stephen Pollard, Mr Leeson's UK solicitor, said he was obviously disappointed by the decision of the German court. "There are clear grounds of appeal against the decision to extradite in respect of at least eight of the remaining charges," he

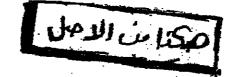
"This appeal will be pursued by way of reference by the Federal Constitutional Court which will be submitted within the per-mitted one month time limit."

Legal sources suggested that the German constitutional court might take up to two months to decide whether the defence had an admissible case for appeal and that if it agreed to an appeal being heard the whole process could take up to a year. But there is a growing possibility that Mr Leeson's extradition could come in

weeks, rather than months. Meanwhile, in London, sources close to the Serious Fraud Office hinted that it would try later this week, possibly via a court appearance, to prevent a group of Barings bond-holders from pursuing a private prosecution against Mr Leeson, which would involve a trial in the UK.

The bond-holders managed to persuade the City of London Magistrates' Court to accept eight summonses against Mr Leeson but the SFO has made clear that it wants to take over the case and drop it.

Sources close to the SFO have said that they wish to assist the Singapore authorities in ensuring the trial takes place



Children may be returned to their father

TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles

Supercur then

She and the

rt agre

tradition

The family of Nicole Brown Simpson signalled yesterday that they may be prepared to return Justin Simpson, seven, and Sydney, nine, to the care of their father, rather than subject them to a bitter legal tug-of-war

Lawyers for both sides were talking about a reunion and a possible joint custody agreement.

After his acquittal on Tuesday, OJ Simpson made it clear that he intended to ask for custody of his children. "My first obligation is to my young children, who will be raised in the way that Nicole and I had always planned," he said in a statement read by a son from his first marriage, Jason.

The fate of the two children is now an emotive issue, promis-ing to be the latest poignant episode of the OJ Simpson soap opera.

They were upstairs sleeping when Nicole and her friend, Ron Goldman, were brutaily murdered in a bloody struggle

in the grounds of her home.

While the family of the other victim, Ron Goldman, have made no secret of their belief that Simpson is guilty, Nicole's parents have been much more discreet. Her father, Lou Brown, said

he was prepared to "assimilate" with the father of his grandchildren. "A reason a lot can be overlooked is the children," he said. "The children are our

The Brown family are still party to a civil law suit filed against Simpson for damages from their daughter's death, but its fate is uncertain.

They would "pack those kids' bags and, with all the class and dignity they have, send them back ... They did not disparage O.J ... They will come home to a father that they love," a family friend told the Los Angeles Times.



Flowers on Nicole Brown Simpson's grave yesterday

Simpson to reclaim the children immediately. "He would like to get acquainted with the children again ... I think he is reasonable enough to know that the children have a good life here, that they find strength and love in this house."

Ms Brown said that they had informed the two small children of the outcome as soon as they returned to their Southern California home.

"Yes, we told them 'Daddy's free' They were happy. They love Daddy. We have never said anything negative about Daddy to them," she said.

"Our grandchildren now have a father that's a free man, whereas they have no mother regardless of her situation. But at least they have one parent to back up their life," Nicole's father added.

Legal analysts said that although Mr Simpson had been declared innocent of any crime, evidence from the murder trial could be introduced into a custody fight, and could weigh

recorded during emergency phone calls that Nicole made to the Los Angeles police. Sydney and Justin have been

living with their grandparents in conservative Orange County where Nicole grew up.
On visits to the local super-

market, the family called ahead to arrange for any tabloids and magazines which were carrying lurid coverage of the OJ murder case to be removed from the

The Browns were granted temporary custody of the chil-dren when Mr Simpson was first held in fail. In court papers, Mr Simpson's lawyers made it clear that he expected "to resume his legal and physical custody ... upon his release from incar-ceration. Although Mr Simp-son talked to the children once a week by phone, they did not visit their father.

Faye Resnick, a friend of Nicole's who wrote a sensationalist book about her life, apparently spoke for many family members when she said: "Oh God! Nicole was right. She said he was going to kill her and get away with it. He always said he was above the law."

Priends of the couple disagree about how much attention the children actually received before and after the couple

broke up. Nicole, who enjoyed the high life among the Los Angeles party set, used to drive the children around in a white Ferrari paid for by Mr Simpson, full of family litter, coins and toys. "That was the car ... It just so happened that her station wagon was a Ferrari," said her sister Dominique Brown.

The children come up fre-

quently in recorded telephone conversations between the Simpsons, revealed at the trial. "Please leave, OJ. Please, the

kids; the kids are sleeping," Nicole is heard saying in one A voice identified as OJ's

comes back: "You didn't give a



Juditha Brown, said yesterday
That would include taped were fucking in the living room. that she did not expect Mr evidence of a violent abuse Who cared for the kids then?"

On their way home: OJ Simpson with his children Sydney (left) and Justin after attending that the case was "absolutely not a funeral service for their mother

Photograph: Sam Mircovich/Reuiters an indictment of my depart-Photograph: Sam Mircovich/Reujters an indictment of my depart- fold up the tent."

Arteria Calaccia

Police morale shattered by acquittal

Los Angeles - The officers of the Los Angeles Police Department, who apparently believed almost to a man that OJ Simpson was guilty well beyond reasonable doubt, were yesterday given the job of closing the streets and shooing off on-lookers as he partied inside the walls of his Los Angeles estate, Tim Cornwell writes.

With detectives' morale shattered by the acquittal, the department faced calls for a new investigation of the murders of Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman. And in Washington the US Justice Department has promised to push ahead with investigating the allegations of police misconduct that were raised in the trial.

Los Angeles police were stunned and bitter over the verdict, believing that there was more than enough evidence for a conviction. But the only juror to give an extensive account of the jury's delibera-tions yesterday laid the blame squarely on doubts about the department.

"It was garbage in, garbage out," said juror No 6, Lionel Cryer, in an interview with the

Los Angeles Times.

The jury felt that the police had such a bad track record that they could have set out to nail OJ Simpson at all costs, he said. In particular, Mr Cryer mentioned the claim made by Mr Simpson's defence that crucial blood samples had been contaminated.

It seemed that the allegations of institutionalised racism, which have dogged the Los Angeles police since the videotaped beating of Rodney King, had weighed heavily with the elder of the two white women on the jury, Anise Aschenbach, 60.

Ms Aschenbach thought that Mr Simpson had probably committed the murders, her daughter, Denise said. But "this was the only answer they could come up with because the involvement with [former Detective Mark] Fuhrman in the case somehow screwed up the evidence."

The Los Angeles police chief,

When it comes to HUNTING HOOMS

I have the INMINGS of A prehistoric man.



Furhman: Former detective

ment. The results of this trial are not going to result in the re-building of the LAPD". The mayor, Richard Riordan, urged the city to look at officers who "protect and serve Angelenos with honour".

But black community leaders called on the district attorney to investigate Mr Fuhrman for perjury. Mr Fuhrman had pleaded his constitutional right to refuse cross-examination of his claim that he not used the word "nigger" in 10 years and his own boasts of tampering with evidence.

The defence suggested that the two senior officers, Mr Fuhrman and Detective Mark Van Atter, were driven by racism to fabricate evidence against Mr Simpson, planting blood samples and a glove that were found at his estate.

"Mark Fuhrman confirmed what most African-Americans have felt right along and known all along," John Mack, the president of the Urban League, said. "In South-Central Los Angeles, too many Mark Fuhrmans have harassed and brutalised people." he said.

In media interviews, one police officer after another vented their frustrations in a department that has suffered one self-delivered blow to its

Proprietor of the Neel Street Restaurent

Verdict highlights racial split and puts legal system in dock

What the American papers said

Los Angeles Times

"Los Angeles wakes up foday to an unsettling reality. It is a city ma nation so divided that we cannot even agree on what we all see when look at the same picture. One of the unre-repellent reactions to the verdict was the loud cheering that erapted in the street outside."

DAILY NEWS

The trial of the century has ended in the Travesty of the Century. No amount of cheering, no celebrations, no glee can change that. Drowned out by the emitations is a much more telling sound: the sobs of the

The New York Times

"Whatever one thinks about the shockingly swift acquittal of O.I.
Simpson, this "trial of the century" has left a stigma on criminal justice that could take years to repair. In the end, this will be remembered as case that was disrupted by the police."

The Washington Post

"Those who were sincised by the verdict are likely to demand wholess revisions in the criminal instice system. This is a dangerous enterprise, a time when emotions on high. The protections after ded defendants in American courts, exist to guarantee a fair trial to rich celebrities and common folks aftise."

Richmond Times-Dispatch

The verdict will undermine the bathlof some in our criminal justice system - and for others it will restore a faith lost too long. The jury was unprepared to convict a man it may invested as gully. That is the system working - albeit in a differentiable of way.

RUPERT CORNWELL

President Bill Clinton is considering publicly addressing the ssue of the racial divisions in America laid bare once again in the closing stages of the OJ Simpson trial.

The Simpson story might have been knocked from its perch on top of the news bul-letins by the advance of Hurricane Opal on northern Florida, but the impact of the case on the already frayed racial fabric of the country may, in its own way, be no less threatening.

Poll after poll showed the jury's decision has done virtually nothing to reduce the gulf between the races' views about the guilt of the former football star. According to a CBS survey, six out of 10 whites believed the verdict was wrong, while nine blacks out of 10 considered it correct. Overall, the country disagrees with the verdict by a margin of 56 per cent to 33 per cent, USA Today poll found.

Across the country afterwards, the scenes everywhere were the same: groups of jubi-lant blacks erupting into cheers, whites mostly sombre and stunned by disbelief. For blacks, the case has confirmed that only Mr Simpson's ability to pay for a top-flight defence team pre-

vented a "rush to judgement" against him; cynical whites are convinced that a jury contain-ing nine blacks allowed itself to

be swayed by racial factors. That was rejected by the one juror who has spoken publicly so far, Lionel Cryer. Mr Cryer, who is black, said that race had been "barely a blip" in their de-cision, which was shaped by weaknesses in the prosecution's case. But on one point everyone is agreed: race relations have

So much was evident in the statement from Mr Clinton, urging his countrymen to respect the jury's verdict. Officials say the President is considering an address urging harmony and reconciliation.

The other prime casualty of the case is the US legal system itself. The outcome, declared the Philadelphia Inquirer, "is bound to fortify the notion that justice is for sale in America, that a 'dream team' can get anyone off anything".

Poisoning everything is the majority's suspicion that a murderer has walked free. This is ev ident from bitter jokes making the rounds, among them a supposed new slogan for Hertz rental cars, which Mr Simpson once advertised: "We guarantee to get you to the airport with an

been damaged by the affair.

Case puts court TV on trial

Legal Affairs Correspondent

English lawyers may have shuddered at the television images of the OJ trial, but they draw different conclusions from what they saw.

One school of thought believes the trial showed that a media circus is the inevitable consequence of opening up courtrooms to television camcras, and that it is now unlikely to happen. The other view is that television is neutral, and what has been exposed are the deficiencies of Californian justice, not the effects of courtroom

Cameras are banned in courts in England and Wales. There was an experiment with a recorded trial in Scotland

judiciary is divided on the issue. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, favours an experiment in civil courts to encourage understanding of the way they operate. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, op-

poses televising criminal trials. Stephen Kay QC, secretary of the Criminal Bar Association, said yesterday that if cameras were allowed in English courts, there would be accompanying commentary, and the participants in the trial would have to have the right to explain their conduct. "Inevitably you would end up influencing juries with material from outside the court-

He said there was already a problem with press coverage, but the effect of television on for 70 per cent of the popula-

people was qualitatively different from print. He added that the presence of cameras would affect the way people behaved giving evidence. "Even if it was not shown until after the verdict. somebody is going to be influenced by the thought that 10 million people will see them." The Bar Council spent a

year in the late 1980s studying the likely effects of televising trials, and recommended it should be tried, although for education, not entertainment. Jonathan Caplan QC, who chaired the investigation, said: "Television coverage of the OJ trial has probably been one of the better ways of keeping people informed of the daily progress. Television could not be ignored; it was the main source of news tion. In Britain there would not be a media circus because the same contempt of court rules would apply to television which limit newspapers now.

"I agree television needs to be introduced with caution," Mr Caplan said. "The judge could kick out the cameras at any time if he decided they were not in the interests of justice." The case has also raised the

question of juries in complex cases. Mr Kay believes juries sometimes make decision on conscience grounds, and that has to be accepted. Another senior QC, Anthony Scrivener said the OJ jury's decision was perfectly reason-

would probably have found him

innocent too, on the evidence,"

WILD FUN-guy: FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO AMEX. AT the NBAL Street REstaurant (and most other street;) able on the evidence they had been given. "An English jury

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Irish church hit by sex abuse cover-up claim

ALAN MURDOCH

The Irish Catholic Church faced new claims of covering up sex abuse by members of its clergy with the revelation yesterday that IR£50,000 in damages had been paid to a former Dublin altar boy who alleged he was the victim of a series of extreme sexual assaults between the ages of

The damages, plus IR£6,000 in costs, were paid following a 1993 claim by Alan O Sullivan. now a 33-year-old architectural draughtsman from the Navan Road area of north Dublin.

ly Seventies he suffered a series of assaults including buggery, rape, extreme sexual perversion and violent sexual abuse inflicted by a former curate, Fr Patrick Hughes.

During one assault in the priest's house he allegedly strangled and almost choked the boy. When Mr O'Sullivan finally told his parents, his father approached church authorities who assured him the matter

It is understood the priest was psychologically assessed by a consultant, but was judged fit to

living in a Redemptorist community in Dublin since 1993. When the settlement was

arranged, lawyers for the church maintained it had no "vicarious The latest case casts further

doubt on the account given by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Desmond Connell, in an interview on Monday. Then, referring to the case of Fr Charles
Payne who was loaned
IRE27,500 by the church to pay a settlement of a civil sex abuse claim, Dr Connell said: "I had no precedent to guide me whatever. This had never come up It was alleged that in the ear- before. Moreover, it hasn't come up since."

The newly-appointed Jesuit spokesman for the Dublin Archdiocese, Fr John Dardis, claimed yesterday that Dr Connell had been speaking solely about the provision of a loan from the diocese. This was borne out, he said, by the fact that Fr Hughes had had to pay his own settlement.

However, Mr O'Sullivan's solicitor, Julian Deale, high-lighted the unusual speed of the settlement in 1993. His understanding was that he was dealing with the church itself, and had only come into contact early retirement.

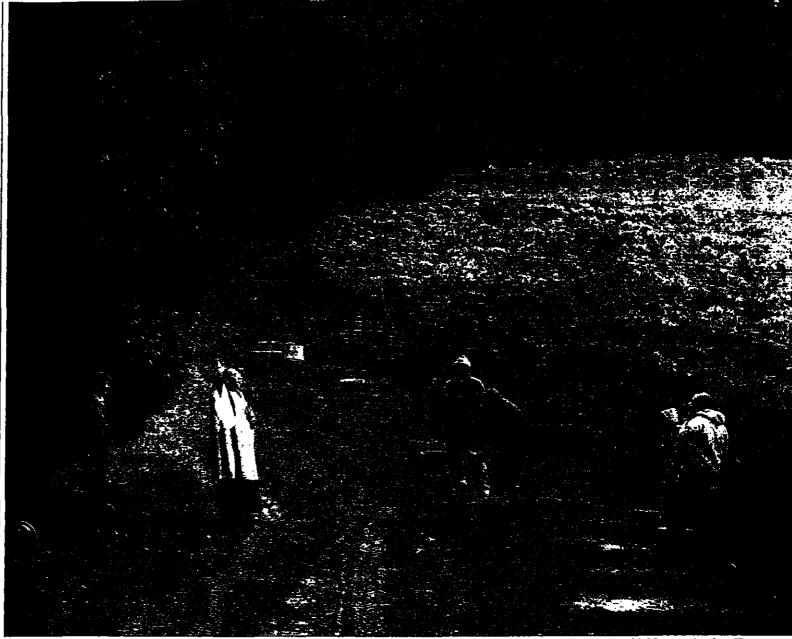
late stage in negotiations.

In an interview in June 1993, Dr Connell said he had dealt with "three or four" allegations of sex abuse against priests in his diocese, none of which went to court, but declined to give any further details.

Fr Dardis said it was likely more cases of similar sex abuse would now come to light, giv-en the US experience where initial revelations encouraged more victims to come forward. "I would expect quite frankly that there would be more alle-gations made. Based on experience in the US we're not through this yet. There will most likely be more."

According to the Irish Times, Mr O'Sullivan complained about the assaults to gardai in Cabra, north Dublin, who said later that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided against proceedings.
In October the failure of the

Attorney General's office to process a child sex abuse extradition application in the case of paedophile priest Fr Brendan Smyth led to the fall of the last Irish coalition. In a reorganisation of the office soon after,



A time to harvest: The Rev Robert Middlewick blessing the vineyard at Lamberhurst, Kent, for the start of grape picking yesterday. The owners are expecting the crop to be one of the best for many years because of the hot, dry summer Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

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Lamont challenges his neighbour to a duel

STEVE BOGGAN

Norman Lamont, whose constituency has been scrapped in boundary changes, will tonight begin a fight for political survival described by fellow Tories as "touch and go".

The former Chancellor will challenge his nearest neighbour, fellow Conservative Richard Tracey, to represent the new constituency of Kingston

In a duel that began in friendeach of the MPs will try to conpaid-up Tory members that he them in Parliament. Under Conservative Party rules, Mr Lamont, whose Kingston-upon-Thames constituency will cease to exist before the next election, is entitled to challenge for any seat that absorbs any part of his former territory.

cumbent, Mr Tracey, declared himself "surprised" yesterday that Mr Lamont had chosen to take him on.

"All of my old constituency [Surbiton] is intact and its electorate forms 65 per cent of the new constituency," he said. "Norman is entitled to challenge for it, but I was surprised that he did. The closing date for applications was 6 September but I saw him on the 5th and he didn't even mention it.

"I've seen him several times ship but threatens to turn sour, since, but he hasn't said anything. We just don't talk about vince a meeting of up to 1,000 it. He's written to me now, but the whole thing is a bit

Each man is considered pop-ular in his own constituency, but Mr Lamont's open criticism of John Major and his support for John Redwood's summer challenge for the party leadership is proving to be a double-edged

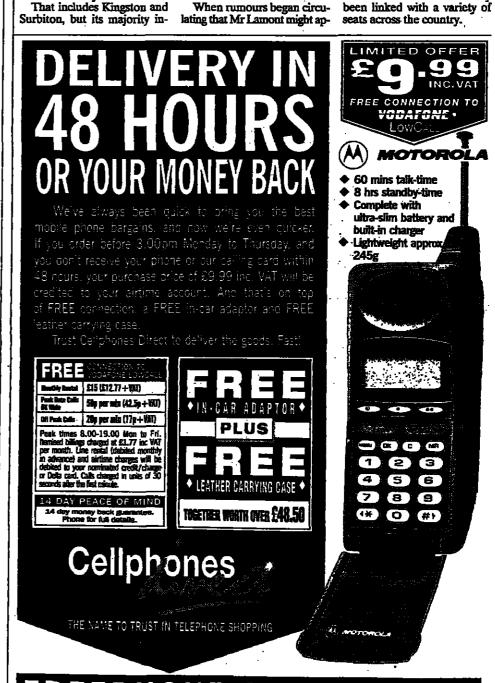
ply for the new Vale of York constituency, one of its branch secretaries, Michael Bilton, was reported as saying: "Tony Blair has more chance.

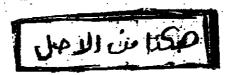
In Surbiton, however, there was a strong anti-Major feeling during the summer which could stand Mr Lamont in good stead.

"There is so much apathy at the moment that it might persuade some people to vote for him," said Eunice Paxman, president of the Kingston and Surbiton Conservative Association. "At the time of the challenge, we were split over it but there was a big move for Mr Redwood. It may actually stand

"It isn't possible to say how the vote will go here but it will be touch and go. Both men are very popular."

If he fails to be selected, Mr Lamont may have to look elsewhere to secure his political future. His name has already





CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

The crisis at New Statesman & Society will take another twist today when Philip Jeffrey, its socialist millionaire major shareholder, returns to take day-to-day control.

Speaking to the Independent from Cyprus, where he has been on holiday, before flying back to Britain, Mr Jeffrey offered no guarantees as to the fu-ture of the troubled magazine's staff and said he was tearing up its old hallowed constitution.

This followed last week's dramatic intervention by Mr Jeffrey, who for the past two years has acted like an absentee landlord, when he forced the resignation of its entire board. He took that decision after becoming fed up with newspaper reports that directors were putting together a refinancing package, one of the prices of which would be the removal of Steve Platt, his ally as editor.

"I will not finance a divided house any more. I will say to staff you can either work with me or get on your bikes'," he said yesterday

Having put £600,000 in to the magazine two years ago to no profitable result, he is reluctant to spend any more. Instead, he is going to Brighton to the Labour conference to launch what he calls Operation Phoenix, attracting 1,500 investors offering £1,000 each to create a new New Statesman.

If he cannot persuade enough investors, Mr Jeffrey, who made his fortune from developing the FADS DIY chain, will make up the shortfall to the £1.5m estimated to be the cost

of re-launching the magazine. The title & Society, acquired when the New Statesman

ingesh

aduel



Hot issue: Friday's edition nears completion. There are re-launch plans, to make the magazine 'more businesslike'

merged with New Society, will a new, more business-like mag-go. Also to be scrapped, ac-azine, with a new set of rules. cording to Mr Jeffrey, will be the magazine's constitution, first drawn up by George Bernard Shaw, its founder, in 1913. "The old New Statesman, with a constitution written by Shaw and revised by John Maynard Keynes,

In its place, he said, would be

This could put Mr Jeffrey, who holds 49 per cent of the shares, on collision course with the other shareholders. Under its rules, the New Statesman has five trustees who hold special "E" shares guaranteed to protect editorial independence.

calling for the resignation of the board last week, three directors have left and the rest will tender their resignations at a board meeting on Tuesday. Brian Basham, one of the directors who was trying to drive through a series of reforms and a refinancing package, yesterday said ct editorial independence.
Since he announced he was unhappy with Mr Jeffrey's behaviour. Mr Basham

will resign next Tuesday but only with a lawyer present as a witness to ensure there is no misunderstanding over the reasons for his and the other directors' departures. Mr Basham said he was "very pleased Philip Jeffrey is at last taking over. It just irritates me he has chosen to do so in an egotistical and precipitative manner". Referring to

the way Mr Jeffrey defeated Derek Coombs, former Tory MP, to take control of the New

Statesman in 1993, Mr Basham said that there was now "the paradoxical situation where a professed socialist and puritan wants to act in a more Draconian and Thatcherite manner than even an ex-Conservative

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

dering brewery engineer Ger-ard George Lowe, 32. The prosecution alleges Mr Martin, used a false name checked in to the same hotel room as Mr Lowe on 8 March and later murdered him. Police said Mr Martin admitted he killed Mr Lowe just after he checked in Britain. Police witnesses testified on to the room, which they had agreed to share to save money. Mr Martin's written state-Tuesday that when he was arment was read out in court by

Briton claims

hotel killing

was self-defence

Singapore (Reuter) - A Briton

accused of murdering a South African tourist and dumping his

dismembered corpse in the har-bour here told police he killed

in self-defence, a court heard

vesterday. The defendant claimed a friend, whom he re-

fused to identify, later disposed

of the body, police said.

John Martin, also known as

John Martin Scripps, faces the

death sentence if convicted by

an investigating officer.

rested. Mr Martin had several Mr Martin claimed the killing was an unpremeditated response to unwanted homosexual advances, police said. He had said that Mr Lowe attacked him with his own camp-Martin's arrest. ing hammer before dropping it

on the floor. "He then came towards me and I used the hammer ... to hit him several times on the head until he collapsed on to the car-

the Singapore court of mur-"On returning to my hotel room, I found everything neat and tidy," he said. "Mr Lowe's body was no longer there." Police said Mr Martin was asked to identify the friend and replied: "I cannot tell you his identity because if he knew he would harm my family back in

peted floor," Mr Martin said, ac-

cording to the statement, "I then

panicked." Mr Martin, 35, said

he visited a British friend at an-

other hotel whom he later paid

returned and told me that there

was nothing to worry about as

he had already got rid of

Lowe's body ... by throwing it into a river, "Mr Martin said in

"Some time later ... my friend

to clear up the mess.

the statement.

passports, two of which beonged to Canadians Sheila Mae Damude and her son. Darin, whose dismembered bodies were found in Phuket. Thailand, in March. Thai police have issued a warrant for Mr Asked about the Canadians

whose passports he was carrying. Mr Martin said that he had never met them. He said they had been given to him by his British friend.

Books 'speed up babies' development'

WENDY BERLINER

Giving books to babies as young as nine months accelerates their development, concentration and ability to relate to others, according to preliminary results of research done in Birmingham.

The study, by Barrie Wade, reader in English and Education at Birmingham University, and Maggie Moore, senior lecturer at Newman College, also in Birmingham, is based on a continuing study of two sets of range of backgrounds.

300 families who three years ago took part in a one-off programme called Bookstart. They

were given material which included a child's book, tips on how to share a book with a baby and

details of how to join the library. The other set consisted of children born at the same time who did not take part in Bookstart. In all, 57 three-year-olds were monitored. Two out of five of the families gave books a low

presents - they were more likely to give sweets. Dr Wade said: "Babies have enormous potential. They need

priority, most of them non-

Bookstart families. Only one in

10 of this group gave books as

and the right diet. **Education, Section Two**

Fading glory of a socialist beacon that cast its light around the world

1913: New Statesman founded and financed by George Bernard Shaw (right), .. and Sidney and Beatrice Webb to promote Fabian Socialism:

1930s. Magazine enters golden sen-od with Kingsley Martin as additor and contributions from the likes of Bergawi. Russell, EM Forster and Keynes NS is staunchly pacifist and ariti-impe 1957: Stirring J B Priestley article acts



Nyerere, of langarning paying tribute to NS's massive utilizance.
1966: Circulation peaks at 96,000 with NS required reading for fiberal, less of centre intellectuals.

certie intellectrals.

1970: Richard Grossman (right) be-comes editor. Magazine stans to con-centrate on internal Labour issues and wangings. Begins downward path. 1982: Brute Page voted out of the ed-



Magazina now called Mew Statesman and Society.

1990: Staff Juyout purs little known Stave Platt (right) who editor's chair noce occupied by Anthony Howard, Paul Cohreson, John, Edeman, and Flugh Stephenson as Well as Crossman and Marin.

1993: Socialist millionaire Philip Jeffeld Pasts Denis Commis former Con-

frey beats Derek Coopus, former Con-senance MP, for central of almost b

1963: 50th brithday celebrations see socialist leaders around... 1988; New Statesman with circulation down to 26,000 merges... 1995: leftley lordes resignation of board and talkes over day the world including the Indian prime minister Nehru and Julius... with New Society which has seen its circulation slump to 22,000... to day control and laproces rescue plan...



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Chinese Triads recruit young British thugs

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Teenagers from British gangs are being recruited by Chinese "Triad" gangsters to help run their criminal empires, ia conference of senior police officers was told yesterday.

Detective Inspector Andrew Rennison, head of the Chinese intelligence unit within the Metropolitan Police, described four Triad societies which operate throughout the country, with strongholds in London, Southampton, Manchester. Northampton and Glasgow. He estimated that there were up to 200 core Triads, and predicted that the number of gang mem-bers would quickly rise if there is a large influx of people from Hong Kong when China takes over the colony in 1997.

However, a recent trend noted by his team was the recruitment of non-Chinese teenagers into the Triad movement. In a recent case, 20 members of a gang in Croydon, and loosely knit. south London, aged from 13 to 15, were recruited by Triads through Chinese youngsters.

The teenagers, both black and white, had been used by the the Chinese. "Hong Kong is too Triad in crimes, mainly centred in London's Chinatown. "The teenagers enjoy the danger and are attracted by the

gang's violent image," said DI Rennison.

Vietnamese and Malaysian

with Hong Kong gangs, are in-volved in a number of illegal activities within the country's 200,000 Chinese community, including gambling, vice, and illegal immigration and passport fraud. Protection rackets, loan sharking, credit-card fraud, counterfeiting and drugs also form a major part of the gangs' activities.

"We know who the leaders are, and the main players, but. witnesses are very difficult to come by and are usually frightened," said DI Rennison. In one case a witness was attacked and left for dead by a gang wielding meat cleavers.

Speaking at the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales' annual conference at Market Bosworth, Warwickshire, the Detective Inspector said the Triads encouraged their image of being extremely violent and organised to help them terrorise their own communities. However, they were often chaotic

DI Rennison did not believe there would be a massive surge of new Triads coming to the UK after Hong Kong goes back to big a gold mine to leave," he said. "The real threat comes from the domestic Triads."

■ The police conference also heard that many forces now have sub-standard facilities for firearms training. Only a third young men from Britain were of the police forces in England also being targeted. The British and Wales have their own Triads, which have loose links outdoor ranges and have to rely on Ministry of Defence facilities, which are often unsuitable. Superintendent Mike Wal-

dren, head of the Metropolitan Police firearms unit, said: "In some cases the conditions the instructors have to work under are difficult to say the least. One force has an outdoor range overgrown with trees and

With the increase in the peace dividend, the MoD is shedding assets - that includes ranges. Range availability will reduce and this is a fact."

The importance of after-care for officers involved in shooting incidents was also stressed by DI Rennison. As a possible consequence of ignoring the problem. he pointed to a recent out-ofcourt settlement of £250,000, paid by the MoD to a soldier who brought a civil action against the Army for failing to provide support in dealing with trauma after the Falklands war.



son Henry assembled this section from the original components. Its principles form the core of all modern computing Photograph: Edward Webb

Cookson's romance fails to tempt students

LOUISE JURY

Her legions of fans have made her the most popular author in Britain's libraries. Sales of more than 90 million books have placed her among the country's wealthiest women

So when Leeds University advertised its course on the social, historical and literary aspects of the works of the historical-saga writer Dame Catherine Cookson they thought they were on to a winner.

"She's a local writer and she's hugely popular," said Samantha Fielding, administrative officer for the university's department of adult

continuing education. For one afternoon a week for a term, the course was worth 10 credits towards 120 needed for the first part of a full university degree.

But only one person en-rolled, and the course has been

"The minimum number nceded was 10. But if we can get enough we'll try again in January. We did it once before, last year, and got enough people then," Ms Fielding said.

But others were not convinced. AR Beven - whose novel The Seldom Girls was released under his initials by publishers who believed women would not buy romance from a man - said: *Comparing Catherine Cookson with, for example, 19th-century novelists might be interesting, but if all you have to do to get 10 credits is regurgitate the plots then it's not worth it."

Elizabeth Buchan, chairman of the Romantic Novelists' Association, said: "Romantic fiction contains some of the big novels like Jane Eyre and Far From the



Dame Catherine Cookson: Traditional story-teller

tradition, but it's been hijacked by Mills and Boon ... But to take Catherine Cookson as a complete lodestone would be mad. Her clogs-to-credit-card kind of feel is the stuff of traditional romantic fiction but she's not the whole story by any means."

Joanna Briscoe, who won the 1993 Betty Trask award for "traditional" or "romantic" fiction with her novel Mothers and Other Lovers, was "not surprised if only one person wants to take the course". She said: "I'm all for studying commercial fiction and I think we should certainly question our notions of what great writing is. But it's silly to choose one author."

Dame Catherine herself, however, was thrilled that Leeds was still hoping to get the course underway. She already receives letters from schools which use her books as a subject for study. "I think it's mar-vellous," the 89-year-old writer said. "I am a story-teller. I Madding Crowd, and it's a great adore a good story.

Yardie gangster is jailed for 14 years

A "yardie" gang member who told a judge that he had been lured to Britain and "set up" in an armed robbery was jailed for 14 years yesterday.

Rohan Thomas, 37, was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court for his involvement in the "terrifying" attack at a warehouse party. A fellow gang member, Steven Crossdale, 27, of Herne Hill, south-east London, was jailed for eight years. released from jail in 1992 after

Metropolitan Police informer Eaton Green, 28, received a sixyear sentence after the court was told how the three men robbed guests at the party in Nottingham in May 1993. Cash, jewellery and mobile were frightened for their lives."

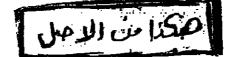
phones were stolen from 100 people, who were lined up and threatened with guns. Green shot one of them in the foot to allay suspicions that he was an informer.

The court was told that Thomas had entered Britain in March 1993 under a false name and with a false passport. He had several convictions for violence in Jamaica and had been serving 12 years for shooting at a policeman.

Mr Justice Smedley told them: "The events of that night were extremely serious. It was a terrifying event and people







news

Casino chief in test case over gaming licence

DAVID SPANIER

An unusual gamble opens in the High Court today, when Max Kingsley, former managing director of the most successful casino group in Britain, London Clubs International, tries to regain his personal gaming licence.

For the past three years, Mr Kingsley has been out of the game, so far as casino gambling in London is concerned.

Now he has secured a judicial review which will determine whether the decision by the Gaming Board of Great Britain to revoke his coveted "grey" gaming licence should be

The hearing, before Mr Jus-tice Jowitt, has far-reaching implications for the regulation of casino gambling in Britain, which is already undergoing rapid change under the Government's policy of dereg-

The Gaming Board revoked Mr Kingsley's licence last year, in the aftermath of its previous action against London Clubs, which began with a dawn raid by police on the Ritz Chub in Piccadilly and Les Ambassadeurs in Park lane, in June

granting of credit, the clearing claims that the loss of his licence of cheques (with particular reference to Japanese exchange controls) and, more significantly for casino operations, the question of funding overseas gamblers' air fares and hotel expenses.

This led to the company being declared "not fit and prop-er" to hold casino licences, thereby threatening its closure.

The judicial review, howev-

er, is not about the verdict of the Gaming Board, which was never tested in court. In the event, London Clubs' casinos were saved by the resignation of Mr Kingsley and his senior colleagues, together with a fundamental restructuring of the company. All the senior management at London Clubs at that time would now need to reapply for gaming licences.

The latest hearing is con-

cerned with whether the Gaming Board exceeded its authority or abused its powers,

Mr Kingsley maintains that when he reapplied, the Gaming Board pre-judged his case by finding against him before he Although the Gaming Board showed clear bias against him complaints were not published, in failing to take proper note of

they covered issues such as the the full evidence in his case. He for alleged professional misconduct has deprived him of a life-long career in casino man-

> If he wins, therefore, he might be in a position to sue the Gaming Board, which would set a new precedent in gaming law, though legal experts say that the issue of damages in judicial review cases is very uncertain.

> Mr Kingsley, who has never concealed his belief that he was unfairly treated, is a man with the means and the energy to fight a long campaign to clear On the other hand, if the ju-

dicial review finds merely that certain aspects of the evidence or supports certain technical objections, it would be open to the Gaming Board to re-consider the case in that light. When the Board did this on a previous occasion, it did not change its decision.

Coincidentally, London Clubs International, under its new management, took a further step to expand its gaming operations in London this week. It has acquired the Park Tower casino in Knightsbridge for was given a hearing, and that it £16m, bringing its total number of working casinos in the capi-



Blueprint for saving water

NICHOLAS SCHOON. **Environment Correspondent**

Changing the design of washing machines and reducing leakage from mains and household pipes are the most cost effective ways of saving water, the Government's water resources and pollution watchdog said yesterday.

The report, comes at a time when about 17 million people in England and Northern Ireland are still under hosepipe bans or tougher water restrictions in the wake of the drought.

The National Rivers Authority said water use could be cut, economically, by up to one-quarter. Its report, Saving Water, said changing older lavatory cisterns and extending water metering selectively were needed to achieve the rewould drastically reduce the frequency of water shortages

and the need for new reservoirs and boreholes.

The report advocates that the Government should set a maximum limit for all new washing machines of 80 litres per wash, and that all pre-1981 cisterns in households should be replaced with dual-flush versions.

These allow the option of using just five litres - half the amount of water in a conventional cistern - to flush away urine. The authority says such arrangements should be mandatory for all new homes, and that water companies could give grants to householders for the cost of replacing cisterns which it puts at £30 per lavatory.

The report also suggests that all water companies should reduce their leakage rates to six litres per household per hour equivalent to about 18 per cent duction. Taken together, this of total water pumped into the mains being lost.

panies of England and Wales pipes are being refurbished, to have leakage rates well above make the installation of meters that, with North West, Welsh an attractive option to cusand Yorkshire the worst offenders. The Government and the industry's economic watchdog, Ofwat, are opposed to compulsory leakage targets for

now made a clear call for them. The authority says these three moves - on washing machines, leakage and lavatories -would together save 3.6 billion litres a day in England and Wales, 20 per cent of current consumption.

the companies but the NRA has

The report says installing water meters in every home would not be a cost effective way of curbing use, but it does come out firmly in favour of a gradual spread of metering "with appropriate safeguards for low-

tomers and to concentrate on areas where water was most likely to be in short supply. This summer's water short-

ages were caused in part by high use of garden sprinklers and hoses. The NRA said that if these households had had meters the problems would have been less severe. "That is something that should be taken very seriously by the water compa-nies," said the NRA's water demand chief Peter Herbertson.

Earlier this week, North West Water was granted powers to ban non-essential use of water such as car washing and watering of sports grounds. In mid-Ulster, several hundred homes have been experiencing rota cuts for the past three months. The priorities should be to in- with water supplies shut off stall meters in all new homes overnight for eight hours in Most of the big 10 water com- and where mains and service every 24 to conserve supplies.



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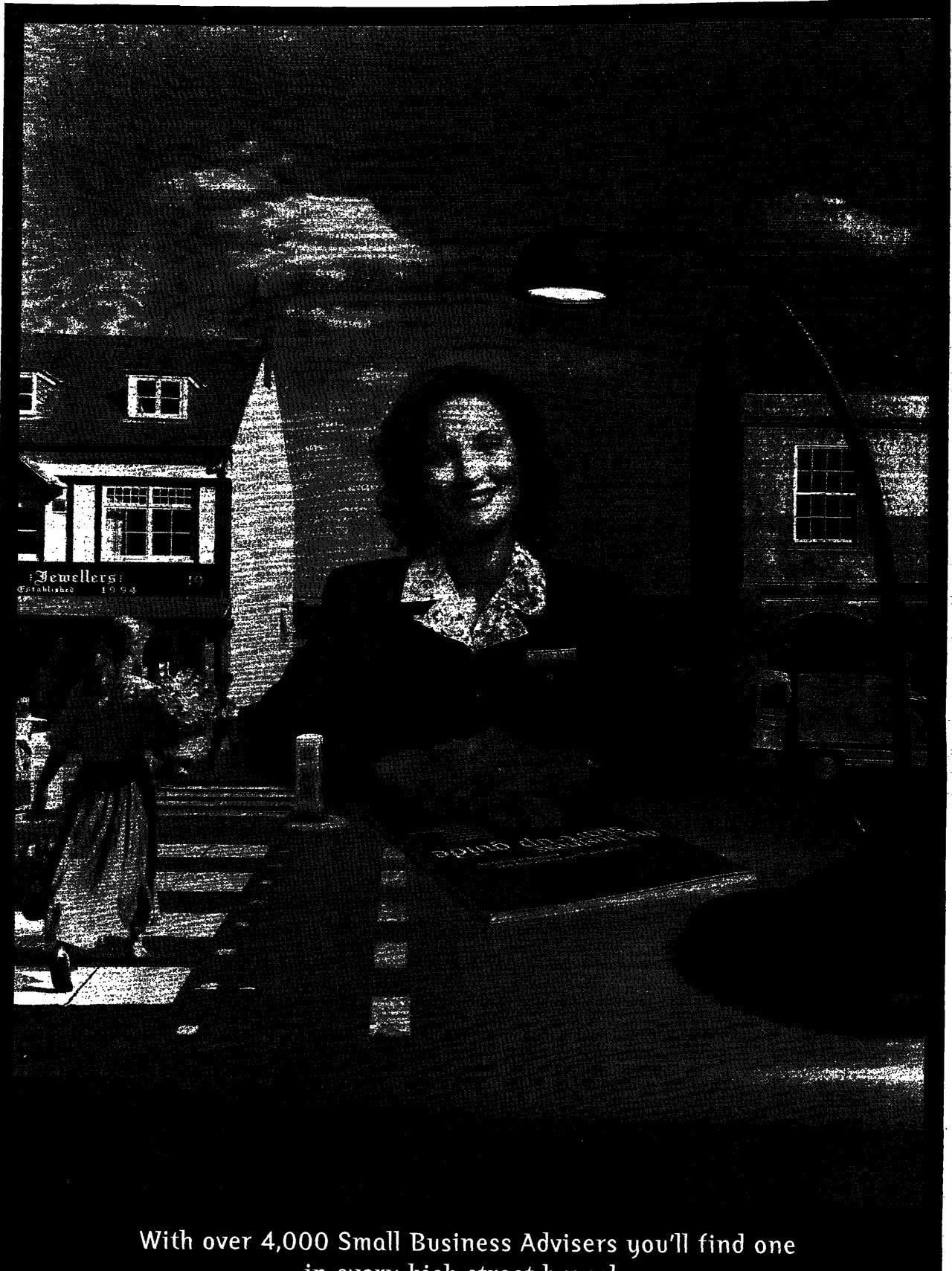
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More than just a bank

Multiple sclerosis: A new treatment may help sufferers of crippling illness, but some doubt that it will be freely available



MS sufferers offered 'breakthrough' drug

Every patient suffering from multiple scierosis who would benefit from a costly new drug will receive it, the Department of Health promised yesterday, as ministers sought to avert another healthcare-rationing

The drug, beta-interferon, has been described by American doctors as the "biggest breakthrough in MS for 20 years", and more than 40,000 patients in the US have used the drug since its approval there in 1993. It will be licensed for use here next month and will cost between £7,000-£10,000 a year for every patient treated.

About 10,000 of the 80,000 MS sufferers in the UK, who have the relapsing, or remitting,

form of MS, will be potential candidates for the drug. US clinical trials have shown that betainterferon can cut the frequency of relapses by up to a third, although it does not cure or halt the disease, which is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system, and affects

mainly young adults.
The NHS executive is now drawing up guidelines on prescribing the drug, to be known as Betaferon, in consultation with the Multiple Sclerosis So-ciety and the British Association of Neurologists. "If there's a pafrom the treatment, clearly they should have [it], and it should be funded," the Department said yesterday.

However, as with many ground-breaking new drugs, the Department is strongly rec-

ommending that it is prescribed beta-interferon in trial use here. solely through hospitals. GPs will be asked to refer patients who want beta-interferon to a consultant for a full neurological assessment to "make sure clinically that it's going to the right people". There is also some concern about its longterm side-effects. other services."

Ultimately, the decision to provide beta-interferon will rest with the local purchasing au-thority or GP fundholders, and many patients fear this means some will get it, while others will not, depending where they live. Some MS sufferers in the UK have already been refused the drug after a consultant has agreed to prescribe it.
Unlicensed drugs can be pre-

scribed for small numbers of patients under a special scheme, and there are different types of

In a recent letter to one MS patient who could not get the drug, John Bowis, junior health minister, acknowledged the problem: "New drugs can be expensive and this includes betainterferon products; money spent on them will mean less for

Peter Cardy, chief executive of the MS Society, said he was urging the Department to issue "strenuous guidance" that access to the drug should be biggest barrier to patients would be waiting lists of several months to see a neurologist.

A free leaflet on beta-interferon is available from the MS Society, 25 Effie Road, Fulham, London SW6 1EE. Helpline:

0171-371 8000. News Analysis, page 19

Beta patient wins right to a brighter future

LIZ HUNT

"What this drug has bought us is time, time for my family and time for science to come up with the cure for this cruel disease." Jean Skasick, 48, has multiple sclerosis but considers herself one of the luckier ones because she has been receiving weekly injections of beta-interferon

The battle to get the drug has dominated the lives of Jean and her husband Jim for more than a year. They launched an appeal to raise funds to pay for it, and, from their home in south-west London, they bombarded everyone they thought could help, from Virginia Bottomley, then Secretary of State for Health, to officials at their loto know why Jean could not have a drug which might slow the progress of the increasing disability which is characteristic of MS.

She talked of being repeat-edly "stone-walled and fobbed off", of ignored letters and phone calls that were never returned, of doctors who said they would prescribe it and then changed their minds. "It was all about money," Mrs Skasick said. "They just didn't want to pay for something that might help me, and yet it was going to cost less than £10,000 a year."

Jean Skasick was under no illusions about beta-interferon. She knew that it would not cure

A CASE STORY AS

her MS and she knew that British neurologists were more cautious than their American colleagues who had hailed the drug as a "breakthrough". But she felt there was no alternative treatment for ber.

Mrs Skasick was unable to take steroid drugs, the only routine MS therapy that offers some relief to sufferers, because she suffered from osteoporosis. She knew that at least 20 people in the UK were already taking beta-interferon, paid for by health authorities or trust hospitals. Another 15 were paying for it themselves. "This was all so unfair," she said. It was only after Mrs Skasick's

story appeared in the Indepen-dent earlier this year that the Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Health Authority relented and said that if she found a neurologist to prescribe the drug, the authority would fund it. Two months into her treatment Mrs Skasick has found no discernible improvement in her

But she said: "This is a long-term treatment. All I my family and I are hoping is that will slow the disability.

"It has given me the prospect of a future. If other people don't get this drug they are being victimised. For years we've cost the NHS nothing - because there was nothing you could do for MS. It must be our turn now."

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DAILY POEM

To Giovanni da Pistoja, On the Painting of the Sistine Chapel

By Michelangelo

3315

Like cats from Lombardy and other places Stagnant and stale, I've grown a gottre here; Under my chin my helly will appear, Each the other's rightful stance displaces.

My beard turns heavenward, my mind seems shut Into a casket. With my breast I make A shield. My brush moves quickly, colours break Everywhere, like a street mosaic-cut.

My loins are thrust into my belly and I use my bottom now to bear the weight
Of back and side. My feet move dumb and blind. In front my skin is loose and vet behind It stretches taut and smooth, is tight and straight.

l am a Syrian bow strained for the pull -A hard position whence my art may grow. Little, it seems, that's strong and beautiful Can come from all the pains I undergo. Giovanni, let my dying art defend Your honour, in this place where I am left Helpless, unhappy, even of art bereft.

Michelangelo, the supreme creative genius of the Italian Renaissance, was also a poet. The majority of his sonnets were written in the last 30 years of his life, this one in Rome as he embarked on the most demanding challenge of his career, the painting of the Sistine Chapel. It is a remarkably frank account of the physical agony of the task, and the unexpected vulgarity of goitres, bottoms and bellies (such earthiness was common in the 16th century) has a refreshing charm. It is one of many poems, translated by Elizabeth Jennings, which appears in a new collection from Carcanet, The Sonnets of Michelangelo.

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Or for further information, please write to: Corporate Communications, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.





LABOUR IN BRICHTON

Hattersley the rebel smarts from Blunkett's savaging

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Roy Hattersley said he "hated" the "trauma" of his new-found role as conference darling of the rebellious left yesterday, as he smarted from a brutal put-down from David Blunkett on the platform.

He had seemed to revel in the delegates' applause after his first speech from the floor for 20 years and he took the long route back to his seat so that he could savour it. It was only when Mr Blunkett departed from his text to savage him that Mr Hattersley's face started to fall.

The former deputy leader claims that he does not want to be involved in political controversy. "Like the Queen Mother in 1936. I hoped to spend the rest of my life in comfortable obscurity," he said.

He says he was offered a Cabinet post in a Labour government by John Smith, when he told the former leader that he would not be standing for the Commons again at the next election. He says Mr Smith told him: "I hoped you would see us in for a year or two." But Mr Hattersley says he did not like the idea of being an "old man" in a Labour cabinet, delaying the

advancement of younger talents. Instead, he returned to his



original craft of journalism and started earning a lot of money as a writer. Some of his articles are cultural. Some are autobiographical - the best was the Roy Hattersley Diet (before, 15st 2lbs; after, 15st 2lbs). And later this month he publishes Who Goes Home? the story of his

But some of his articles are political, and in January he

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and began an extraordinary transformation into left-wing firebrand and leadership critic

This culminated in his appearance at the Tribune Rally on Tuesday. He was paying back a 21-year-old grudge. He told how Tony Crosland told him off for losing "thousands of votes" by pledging, as education spokesman, to abolish fee-paying

schools. He was still bitter about Harold Wilson's refusal to give him the job in government.

But left-wing dissenters, as Liz Davies has also discovered, have to pay a price - the "new Labour" leadership hits back, and hits back hard. Asked if Mr Blunkett's attack on him hurt, he said: "That's politics." But he was hurt. Will he retreat to lick his wounds, or will he fight on?

Party rejects call to abolish grant-maintained schools

STEPHEN GOODWIN Parliamentary Correspondent

Tony Blair was relieved of the embarrassment of having his choice over the education of his son in direct contradiction with Labour Party policy yesterday, when a move to abolish grant-maintained status and bring all schools under local authority control was defeated by a 3 to

The most heated debate of the conference featured Roy Hattersley in the unusual role of darling of the left wing as he accused the party leadership of propping up a failed Tory scheme, and called for a drive against the country's 150 remaining grammar schools. "Let's stop apologising about comprehensive schools," said the former deputy leader of the party, winning a standing ovation from part of the Brighton

But in a trenchant defence of Diversity and Excellence, ap-

on "opt-out" schools, education spokesman David Blunkett said there would be no two-tier system and warned Mr Hattersley of the electoral consequence of splitting the party. "Everyone in this room knows that the team that kicks into its own goal loses the match - and we are not going to lose the match."

The call to abolish GM status and bring all schools, including city technology colleges, back under local authority controi was defeated by 76.4 per cent to 23.6 per cent. Union block votes ensured the comfortable majority, with constituency parties voting by only the narrowest of margins against the motion. A show-ofhands vote would have looked far more damaging for Mr Blair but was avoided when Diana Jueda, chairing the session. moved promptly to a card vote.

Under the policy document

the leadership's compromise proved yesterday, GM schools would be renamed Foundation schools, two councillors would be added to their boards of governors and extra funding would stop. Some 1,070 of the 24,000 secondary schools in England and Wales have opted out of council control, but the Gov-ernment has had difficulty in

persuading more to follow.

The Labour document also restates the party's opposition to the 11-plus examination. "We are determined to renew and commit ourselves to comprehensive education for every child in the country," he said. There would be no hierarchy of schools, and "fair and equitable

funding" for every school.

Mr Blair's decision to send his
son Euan to a GM school, the London Oratory, 8 miles from his Islington home, was attacked by delegates. Maggie Rosher of Coventry, a retired teacher, said she felt "a great sense of betrayal". Nigel Mason, of could be no compromise over opt-out schools: "We will not accept the concept of Foundation schools. This is the Scilafield factor - if something stinks, Youn;

change the name." Lynn Jones of Harborough condemned GM schools as "divisive, selective and destructive". She added: "We must not be seen as the Tories'

partners in crime." But the weightiest criticism came from Mr Hattersley who said the proposal for Founda-tion schools offered GM schools a chance to be different - "a chance to pose as superior and therefore the chance, from one source or other, to obtain extra finance"

GM schools were the great failure of the Tory government - "the thing they couldn't bribe or bully schools to [become]". Mr Hattersley said, "Why we should prop it up seems to me absolutely extraordinary."

Labour education policy: What they said ...

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, in leaked memo last month: "This should be one of our major success stories but it is not. On education, Labour maintains a lead over us of about 30 per cent, compared with 20 per cent a year ago. There is a perception that schools are und-

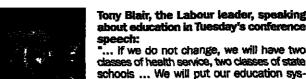
erfunded and peace in the classroom is threatened.... Insufficient resources now threaten the provision of education in the state sector, including grant-maintained schools.

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about education in Tuesday's conference

... if we do not change, we will have two classes of health service, two classes of state schools ... We will put our education system right. No more dogma. No more arguments about structures. For every school, fair and equitable funding. No return to selection, academic or social. But a new deal in our classrooms."



... and what was passed yesterday

Diversity and Excellence, Labour's education policy paper passed by yesterday's conference:

"Schools will be organised in one of three ways

"Community schools, based on existing county schools, would have a number of important changes to increase the role of parents and the independence of the school.

"Aided [schools], based on existing voluntary-aided schools, would... continue to be able to employ staff, develop an admissions policy in partnership with the LEA, hold the school assets in trust and receive capital grants to cover 85 per cent of their cost. Changes .. would include the development of the role of parents."

"Foundation schools will offer a new bridge between the powers available to secular and church schools. They will offer greater flexibility and devolution within the local management system as part of the local democratic framework. Building on voluntarycontrolled schools, the foundation schools would have an opportunity to develop within the local education system the ethos which many grant-maintained schools feel they have developed."

*Our opposition to academic selection has always been clear, But... change [comes] only through local agreement. Such change in the character of the school would only follow a clear demonstration of support from the parents affected by such decisions.

Isolated left goes beyond the fringe

agement, this week's Labour Party conference has been full of the unexpected.

For a start there was the sight in the education debate, of Roy Hattersley casting himself as the darling of the left, and earning standing ovation – for audacity if nothing else. Then there was the woman outside the centre who positioned herself among the gauntlet of activists pressing leaflets - about live exports, freedom for Kashmir, or the Young Fabians Social - on reluctant delegates. Her purpose was to yell her political demand: make ballet underwear com-

pulsory for two hours a day". She was not the only one preoccupied with idiosyncrasies. On the fringe the most unlikely things were being appropriated as party political issues. In a hotel just up the prom from the conference centre yesterday lunchtime, for instance, a woman called Christine Burns was launching a new lobbying

organisation.

Ms Burns's point was that though she was a woman, the law did not regard her as one: she had been born a man, and had undergone "gender re-alignment surgery". She called her group Press for Change pre-sumably because someone had already used the name The No Turning Back Group. Her com-plaints about discrimination against trans-sexuals were sig-nificant: not allowed to have a changed birth certificate, not allowed to marry, not adequately protected against sexual offences. Worse, certain NHS trusts had decided not to continue sex change operations, as a cost-cutting move. Which is ridiculous as they represent very good value for money," Ms Burns said. "They only cost between £1,500 and £3,000, depending on the trimmings." Though in the case of this operation, you would have thought the whole point was that trimmings were included. Sitting beside Ms Burns was

Lynne Jones, a distinctly un-Blainte MP, who quickly made party capital out of the issue. The present Government is intransigent on trans-sexual rights



and has refused to recognise it is a government responsibility. Dr Jones said. "As yet there is no Labour policy relating to this issue, but I am hoping to put forward a resolution at next year's conference. With all the other areas of

policy appropriated by the Blairites, the left, it seems, is having to get ever more imaginative in finding causes to call its own. Ms Burns, though, didn't quite see it like that: she confessed to being a member of the Tory Party and was going to hold a similar meeting next week in Blackpool. At which point a member of the press, barely able to stifle a snigger, asked which Tory MP she had persuaded to chair the meeting. "Sadly, I haven't found one," was the disappointing answer. This ex-change led a delegate to suggest that the biggest problem trans-sexuals face is the media: they just don't realise what harm they cause by taking the piss. So out goes the joke about male prospective Labour MPs taking an interest in this group's activities as their only way of getting on to all-women shortlists. Another tiny, beleaguered

minority group was out lobby-ing the fringe the previous evening: the privatised utility fat cats. At a cocktail party thrown by the modernising magazine Renewal could be found a director of North West Water. The evening began with a plea by the editor for funds, a plea which Tony Blair, making a fleeting visit, found hard to understand. "Looking round this room," the Labour leader said, casting his eye over the select gathering. "I can see plenty of money to help you." He didn't name names, but North West Water subsidising a Labour publication: now that would be unexpected.

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CROYDON

Young to

push ahead

with rapid

owned and publicly accountable" railway system under a

The Labour leader's com-

mitment caused confusion at the

was proposing to make the 25

ment could allow private fran-

chised services to run for the life

of their contracts, up to seven

years, on publicly owned track. But Mr Meacher went fur-

ther yesterday, refusing to rule out the possibility that the 25 op-

erating companies responsible

for running services could be

The RMT transport union,

privatisation policy document in

rail union, believes that the

whole of the industry should be renationalised with immediate effect. Aslef is arguing that

Railtrack and the passenger

and freight train operators should be taken back under pub-

lic control and the Government should take a controlling inter-

est in the companies which

lease rolling stock.
Drivers' leaders accept the train operators may have to re-

main in the private sector un-

til the end of their contracts, but

argue they should come under

the control of a single national

Labour government.

Blair in

plea to

lawyers

Lawyers are to be asked by Tony Blair to work for free to help people take their cases to court without the fear of hefty legal bills, writes Colin Brown. The Labour leader's volun-

tary plan is aimed at people who are not poor enough to qualify for legal aid, but cannot afford proper advice. He made it clear that Labour was committed to supporting a publicly funded le-

gal aid system, but said this was a way of supplementing it. Mr Blair said he had asked

Paul Boateng, Labour's legal af-

fairs spokesman to open dis-

cussions with the Bar Council and the Law Society. Under the

47 -

ed left g

rail sell-off COLIN BROWN and BARRIE CLEMENT The privatisation of Railtrack is to be pushed forward by Sir

George Young, the Secretary of conference yesterday over how far Mr Blair's pledge committed State for Transport, in spite of nising opposition to the break-up of British Rail. Labour to renationalising the rail system. It was thought Mr Blair Signalling the go-ahead at the Conservative Party conference operating companies publicly accountable and to limit the next week, Sir George will in effect challenge Labour to find promise of public ownership to Railtrack. A Labour governthe money to buy it back. "We

are talking about large chunks of money," a Whitehall source Labour hopes its threats to take back Railtrack into public ownership will stop its privatisation. The value of Railtrack, which owns the track system, has fallen from an estimated £4bn, when privatisation was

brought back under public ownfirst proposed, to about £1.5bn. ership. Mr Meacher said the op-The Government is committions included a buy-back of ted to privatising the rail netshares; the issue of Rail Bonds; or the use of a "golden share" work before the next general giving the Government a conelection and Sir George will make it clear it will not be posttrolling interest.

poned any longer. The shadow transport secre-Aslef, the train drivers' union and tary, Michael Meacher, yester-TSSA, the white collar associaday warned prospective private investors: "If you want to buy tion, are lobbying Mr Meacher before the completion of his rail a pig in a poke in all those circumstances it's up to you. But November to make the comdon't come crying to me when mitment to public ownership it all ends in tears. more explicit for Railtrack and the operating companies.
The left-led RMT, the biggest

Opening a debate on transport at the party conference, Mr Meacher said: "We are going to stop this privatisation in its tracks." He also threatened to cut the £1.8bn public subsidy for private companies, although that could put services at risk. The Government's determi-

nation to press ahead with rail privatisation in spite of widespread opposition continued with an employee buy-out yes-terday for £11.5m of the BR sandwich business. The move to accelerate pri-

vatisation will intensify the pressure on Tony Blair from trade

unions to spell out his pledge to

the Labour Party conference authority. that there would be a "publicly Business fears, page 24

Beckett's NHS pledges cheered

Political Correspondent

Private-sector companies will take no part in running National Health Service hospitals under a Labour government, delegates pledged yesterday.

But there was an impas appeal for a fair-pay deal for "ground down" NHS workers from Rodney Bickerstaffe, as-sociate general secretary of Unison, the health service union.

Tony, I heard you loud and clear yesterday when you said that a Labour government, like all governments, will have to say no as well as yes on public-sector pay." Mr Bickerstaffe said

during yesterday's health debate.
"But the NHS staff are the most shining and polished face of the jewel in the crown [of the welfare state]. We cannot keep grinding them down, exploiting them. When you come into your kingdom - and health staff want you there - remember

them and say yes." The plea came as Margaret Beckett, health spokeswoman. received the fifth standing ovation of the conference after pledging that Labour would stop the "privatisation" of the health service that had been put

in train by the Tories. There were cheers when Mrs Beckett promised that Labour framework for commissioning.

Hattersley.

would remove gagging clauses from NHS staff contracts, end mixed-sex wards, fight to restore NHS dentistry, strengthen the rights of carers, ban tobacco advertising, halt market testing of

48 clinical services. Citing last month's issue of the Lancet medical journal, which condemned the private finance initiative as the back door to privatisation. Mrs Beckett said: "The cat's out of the bag. The Tories are privatising

the health service.
"Privatisation is not just about privatising services but also about driving more and more people into the private

sector of health care," she said. "We are now being asked to accept a safety-net public services for emergencies and for the poor and expensive private health insurance for the great majority ... I'm telling you Labour won't accept this future. I won't accept this future - not

while I live and breathe." The conference motion passed by delegates commits the party to abolishing compulsory competitive tendering, ensuring that private companies take no part in running hospitals, and agreeing national pay arrangements. The NHS internal market and GP fundholding would be replaced by a co-operative

Quotes of the day

"Whilst I fully understand there is much interest in the [OJ Simpson] verdict, I would implore you not to lose sight of both the news value and of the importance to the country of Mr Blair's speech." - Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary,

in a fax to the BBC on Tuesday afternoon. "Those who didn't come up with solutions shouldn't turn on those who have." - David Blunkett, education spokesman, to Roy



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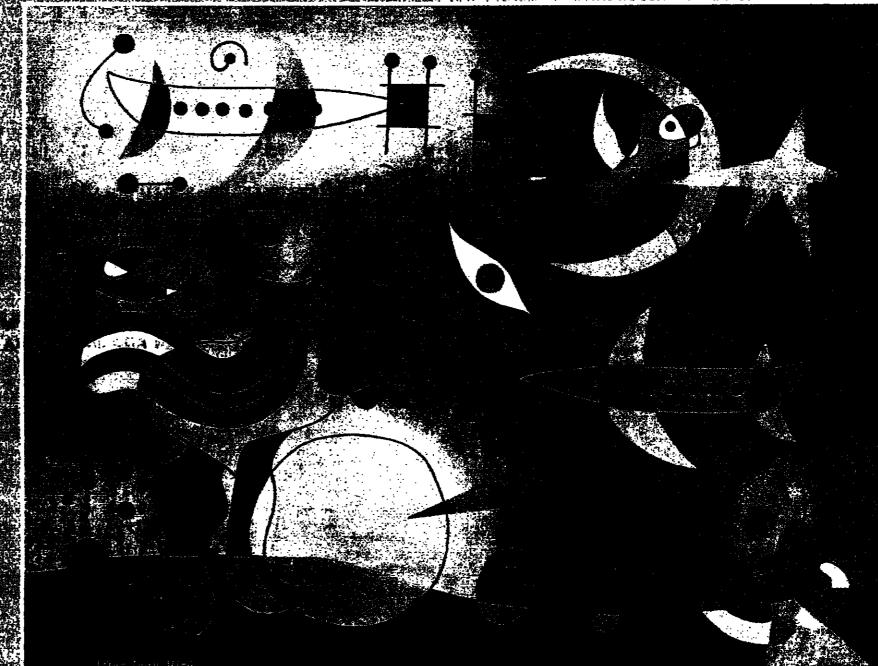


Solitary splendour: Delegate Sadie Cunningham, of Kingston upon Hull East, sitting among a sea of chairs at lunchtime Photograph: John Voos

scheme, lawyers or their companies might volunteer to spend a number of days a year working in law centres or Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Some might contribute a cash equivalent or sponsor a full-time worker.

Mr Boateng will today outline Labour's plans for extending access to justice - including a community legal service and the reform of the legal profession.

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Bosnia conflict: US envoy talks of serious proposal for a ceasefire as his peace mission starts to regain momentum

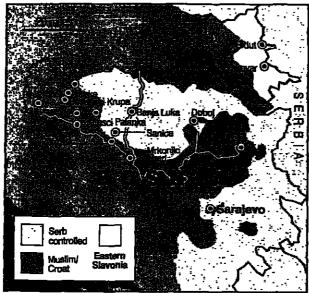
Nato air raids ruffle ceasefire optimism

EMMA DALY Bihac and Agencies

There were renewed hopes of an early ceasefire yesterday, despite a brief resumption of Nato air-strikes and further gains by Serb forces counterattacking in north-west Bosnia. After meeting officials in Sara-jevo, Richard Holbrooke, the US peace envoy, said the Bosnian government had made a "scrious proposal" for a ceasefire. Jadranko Prlic, a Croat who

is vice-premier of the Bosnian government, told the Sarajevo daily newspaper Oslobodjenje that a resolution of the war may be near. "I am not being an optimist," he said. "I am just really assessing the situation.In the next few weeks, we will have a definitive solution.7 Aleksa Buha, foreign minister in the self-declared Bosnian Serb state, said a cease-fire "could be signed on 20 October in Washington".

The optimism was ruffled by the first Nato air raids for two weeks when warplanes fired missiles at three Bosnian Serb radar sites. Nato said Serb antiaircraft radar locked onto the planes and they fired in selfdefence. A spokesman said the planes fired two missiles at



sites in southern and central Bosnia, and that a third was fired at a site in central Bosnia. Despite these attacks, it

appeared that the US peace sion, which had been running into the usual Balkan quicksands, might be regaining momentum. Mr Holbrooke has gained general agreements on a territorial division of Bosnia between multi-ethnic and Serb statelets and power-sharing in fire could pave the way for a fullscale peace conference to establish the final details. The envoy is due to meet the Serh

in Belgrade today. The Bosnian government's willingness to consider a ceasefire may be linked to the success of the Bosnian Serbs in regaining some of the territory in northern Bosnia rolled over by

Muslims and Croats last month Exhausted and disgruntled, the Bosnian Army Fifth Corps is falling back slowly before a rebel Serb counter-attack along a front line stretching more than 100 miles from Otoka, 5 miles north of Bosanska Krupa to the main road leading to the Serb-held town of Mrkonjic Grad. "The situation is not that

good at the moment - I've been on the line for 23 days without a break and now I only have 24 hours off," said a Fifth Corps soldier in Bosanska Krupa. A punk with a studded dogcollar and a bandolier, he was silenced by a disapproving military policeman who announced that morale was good. The Serbs had taken some ground to the north and east but "it's a tactic", he explained. There are similar tales from

soldiers in and around the town of Kljuc, the base for troops advancing north to Sanski Most and east to Mrkonjic Grad. "They brought us from Sarajevo to work as police in Kljuc President, Slobodan Milosevic, then they sent us to the front line to fight like ordinary sol-diers," said one young man, limping from a wound be said was caused by fragments from a missile fired from a Serb air-

After the stunning success of



Going underground: Sarajevo residents queue for water in a city centre tunnel

Fifth Corps attacking out of Bihac - where they had been under severe siege for more than three years - in concert with Croatian troops, the momentum has died. A few days ago the Tigers, an élite unit of the Fifth Corps, had to make a stand to allow their comrades to escape during an attack that went hor-

AIDA CERKEZ

Associated Press

Tuzla - The Serbs had promised

the prisoners would be ex-

off a truck with other Muslim

captives, Hurem Suljic en-

countered a green hillside cov-

hours, first under the July sun

and then by the headlights of

two excavators, as many as

3,000 Muslim men captured

when Serbs overran the east

Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica

were mowed down. Those who

did not die immediately were

of the 42,000 people in Sre-brenica before its fall remain un-

accounted for. US intelligence

photos have indicated mass

graves around Nova Kasaba,

west of Srebrenica. Madeleine

Albright, US ambassador to the United Nations, told the Se-

curity Council as many as 2,700

people might be buried there.

Journalists have reported ev-

idence of human remains: Serbs

suggest they are those of of 3,000 Bosnian government sol-diers killed defending Sre-brenica. But the story told by the

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at the scene

the September offensive by the kilometres of land north of

Bosnian officers say their casualties pale in comparison to those suffered by the Serbs, but the surgical and intensive care wards at Bihac hospital are filled with young men. Death notices are to be seen everywhere - in the past week two senior officers have been killed ribly wrong. The line broke and even the Fifth Corps com-and the Serbs retook several mander, General Atif Refugees exp

Dudakovic, has been wounded. But despite the problems with holding the line, few people fear that a resurgent Serb army will retake the newly captured ter-ritories. "The Fifth Corps is the heavenly force, and the Serbs have no chance of taking Bosanska Krupa now," said Vera Suljanovic, who recently

moved back to the ruins of her

days ago - against their will -are terrified, however, by the prospect of an enemy attack, looking up nervously at the sound of planes overhead and the crump of explosions. We are afraid of the Serbs

Serbs and resettled in Kljue 10

perhaps they will occupy Kljuc again and kill us all if they find us here," one woman said. "The

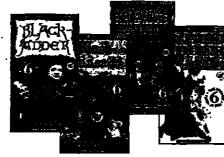
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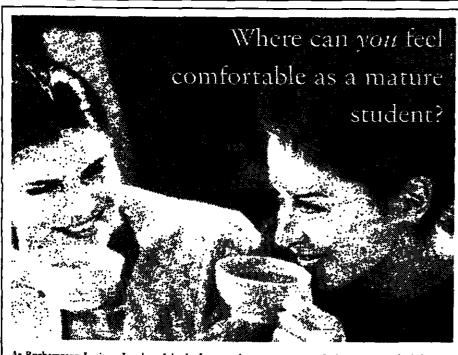








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ROEHAMPTON LONDON

Gligorov bomb has **Balkans** on guard

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

The car bomb that nearly killed President Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia on Tuesday has sent tremors through the southern Balkans and created the most dangerous instability in the region since the breakup of Yugoslavia four years ago.

Supported by a small but symbolic UN peacekeeping force and backed by clever American diplomacy, President Gligorov had kept a balance between rival ethnic groups among his two million people and avoided potential conflicts with Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece. His disappearance from the scene - at 78, he is unlikely to recover quickly from severe head injuries - could end all that.

The greatest danger is that blame for the bombing could fall on a minority group, such as the Albanians, detonating a civil war that would draw in outside interference. Macedonia has an extreme nationalist movement capable of political violence. But Western governments have learnt that the bomb was a highly sophisticat-ed device, believed to be beyond

the capacity of local groups. There is another possibility. The country has become a centre for the Balkan heroin trade and official corruption has been fuelled by Mafia drug money. The Italian Mafia is the only group in south-east Europe to use car bombs to assassinate its foes in recent years. And the Macedonian government was under discreet Western pressure

to crack down on drugs. But it is almost irrelevant whether President Gligorov was attacked by the Mafia or by any of the numerous extremist elements in his landlocked and impoverished country. The fact is that the bombing was a perfectly calculated act of terrorism which achieved its objective: maximum destabilisation.

The instantaneous reaction by Greece - bitterly at odds with Macedonia since its indepen-dence—was proof of the fear it unleashed. When the bomb went off, Greece and Macedonia were just beginning official talks to resolve their dispute over the former Yugoslav Re-public's name and constitution. By ten minutes past six that evening, Athens had sent surgeons with specialist equip-ment from Thessaloniki to Skopje to join the doctors try-ing to save Mr Gligorov's life. Prime Minister Andreas Pa-

pandreaou and the opposition all condemned the bombing and Athens put its forces on alert along the northern border. theirs and Bulgaria tightened security along its frontier with Macedonia.

This attack of the jitters should put every government involved with the former Yugoslavia on its guard. The sensible behaviour of Athens will attract firm European support and its negotiations with Macedonia will go ahead.

Only three escaped as 3,000 were systematically mowed down

Survivors tell of massacre

following fall of Srebrenica

changed. But as he clambered to present to the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, which has already inered with bodies. In the next dicted Gen Mladic as a suspected war criminal.

As Srebrenica fell, its people could hope UN soldiers could protect them, or try to escape west through Serb-held forests to government territory.

killed by pistol shots to the head. Only three men are known to have survived, one of them Mr Suljic, 54,a disabled bricklayer Their accounts of the massacre provide a key link in evidence of Serb atrocities after the enclave fell. They not only point to a previously unsuspected massacre site but also place the Bosnian Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladic. The Red Cross has said 8,000

layer with a bad leg, and joined thousands of others - mostly women and children - seeking refuge at the main UN base. But Serbs occupied it and while Dutch peace-keepers watched helplessly, separated several hundred men, including Mr Suljic, and shut them in a warehouse. He said some 100 were

Legal Notices

entering competitions?

Are you computative about entering competitions in which you can win money or goods. De it the pools, the national lottery or whatever? If so, a writer for the independent would fee to interview you about your methods and methods when

gators gathering information of heading to the front line, they

Mr Suljic thought the Serbs

would have no use for a brick-



first time

were taken to a sweltering sports hall in Krizevci, 22 miles north of Srebrenica. Through the night, bus after bus arrived. On one was Mevludin Oric, 25, a soldier cap-

tured as he fled through the woods. Mr Oric said his captors were driving UN vehicles. Mr Suljic said he counted four to five men to a square yard, a to-tal of 2,400 to 3,000. Gen Mladic appeared again on 14 July, three days after the fall of Srebrenica. "We started yelling at him, "Why are you suffocating us here? Better kill us all'." Finally, the prisoner exchange was said to be ready. Groups

were taken and placed in two trucks, 10 to 15 men in each. "We went a bit up the hill, slowly," Mr Suljic said. "The sound of some machines was becoming louder and louder ... The truck turned left and stopped in the grass. We saw a field covered with bodies. They ordered us to come out and line up with our backs to the soldiers, and our faces to the field of bodies."

There were two firing-squads of five soldiers each. Mr Suljic was in the first row, with two rows of prisoners between him and the Serb guns. "I could hear and the sero ginis. I could near automatic gunfire. They fell on me, and I fell on my stomach. But I wasn't hit," he said. Mr Oric was with a cousin, who grabbed his hand as they

survivors, interviewed sepa-rately, points to a different ex-planation. They have spoken to Bosnian government investi-

said, 'Mevlo, they're going to kill us'," Mr Oric said. As the shooting began he dived to the ground. "I didn't move. I stayed

lying there for nine hours." In intervals between the shooting a Serb walked among the bodies and finished off those still moving with a pistol shot to the head, both survivors said. At one point, Mr Suljic said, Gen Mladic appeared near by. "He took a look and left quickly." Group by group, trucks brought prisoners, who were shot in turn. When it became dark, the soldiers used headlights of the two diggers.

Finally the shooting stopped, and Mr Oric heard a voice saying the dead would not be buried that night. But guards refused to stay the night, and all

the Serbs eventually left. Mr Suljic stood and looked around. Moonlight illuminated "a sea of bodies". He tried to shout "Is there anybody alive? If there is someone, get up, and let's go." It came out as a whis-per. But it was loud enough for Mr Oric, lying 20 yards away. As he stood, he said, "The only thing I saw was dead people all over the place ... I got very scared and started crying. I couldn't stop. This man came to me. it was Hurem, and he asked if I was wounded.'

Stepping over bodies, the two headed into the forest. In the morning, they reached a burned-out village. Stopping to pick apples, they saw a man ahead. It was Smail Hodzic, the third known survivor. They climbed a hill, oriented themselves, and began walking towards government positions. Three days later, they crossed a minefield at the front line and were met by Bosnian soldiers.

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On parade with wannabe warriors

Two blondes in green camouflage micro-skirts are standing guard on stiletto heels over a Harley-Davisonmotorbike. Each is holding a black plastic assault rifle. Sitting cross-legged on a chair, observing them with little interest, is a large, bearded biker sporting dark glasses, jeans, white shirt, black leather waistcoat, cowboy boots. His hair is in a long black pony tail. A tubby middle-aged man in yellow shirt and pink shorts approaches the biker. They talk. The biker nods. The man smiles

and hands over a \$10 bill. The two blondes escort the man to the Harley. He sits on it, side-saddle. The blondes close inspection indicates they are mother and daughter pose cither side of him. All three smile and stare into a Polaroid camera mounted on a tripod. The biker instructs the man to put his arms around the women's waists and, click, he takes the picture.

The scene is the Sands Hotel Expo Centre, Las Vegas. The event is the annual Soldier of Fortune convention. Vendors at a 100 stalls are selling Magnum revolvers, Bushmaster Bullpup" carbines, US armyissue night-vision goggles, Green Beret training manuals, Vietnam-tested tomahawks, double-bladed combat knives. pepper-spray canisters, Rhodesian passports and South-West Africa Special Forces desert camouflage uniforms, available for \$105 (£70) in medium, large and extra large. Saturday morning shoppers inspect the hardware, feel the cloth. Husbands and wives - middle-aged, mid-dle American - stroll hand in hand. They carry their para-military purchases in white plastic bags. Many of the men are wearing black boots and camouflage uniforms. So are some of the women. And so is a baby in a pram. One woman has smeared her face with earthcoloured paint. No one gives her, or the baby, a second

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THE LANGE

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Soldier of Fortune is a maga-zine about men and war. It was founded by Colonel Bob Brown, a Vietnam veteran, in 1975. Colonel Brown and his staff engage in what they call "participatory journalism". They fight and write. This month's 20th anniversary issue



Gun-ho: Macho fantasy is Soldier of Fortune terrain as military enthusiasts exercise with machine guns

correspondents in Rhodesia, where we racked 60 terrorist kills", and El Salvador, where "we took on the Marxist FMLN

Working on the premise that war is fun, SOF dispatches its correspondents to hot-spots in the hope that they will get into trouble. The reports combine breathless Boy's Own Paper enthusiasm with the pedantic attention to detail of a military intelligence brief. The reader, sitting in his Minneapolis bedroom cradling a Budweiser, is drawn into the drama by the implied notion that might be called upon to join Colonel Bob's soldier-journalists on some far-flung field of battle. The most reliable indicator of

Soldier of Fortune's target market is provided by those who adfrom the predictable panoply of knives and rifles, advertisers offer "uncensored gore" photographs of "fatal beatings, nutilations and decapitations". "Russian ladies who want to meet you", and "male power packs" which "can elevate

testosterone by 200 per cent". Macho fantasy being Soldier of Fortune's true terrain, it is not coincidental that Colonel Bob who is in his sixties and partly deaf - should have chosen Las Vegas as the site of his wannabe warriors' annual pow-wow. Las Vegas is so unapologetically over the top that it is impossible for a visitor to feel self-conscious or foolish. More than Los Angeles or New York, Las Vegas is the extreme expression of the American Dream, a desert mirage of shimmering 21st-

man can become an instant millionaire and entertain the notion of possessing (for in Nevada, alone among the 50 states, prostitution is legal) the woman of his wildest imaginings.

Take Jim French, poor Jim French from Scottsdale, Arizona. Jim was wandering up and down the aisles of the Expo Centre on Saturday in a black beret with flowing ribbon, a brown army T-shirt, green cam-ouflage trousers and calf-length army boots. He was paunchy and pale and wore glasses. His arms were flabby and thin.
Back home they'd laugh to see him dressed this way but here he was safe, among friends.

Jim is a substitute teacher who works, sometimes, for the Los Angeles County education department. He struggled to raise the \$700 (£450) to pay for

his week at the Sands Hotel but tioneers, as they called themit had been worth it. When he selves, were good law-abiding got back from Vietnam, where folk: Isuzu dealers from Seathe served in Air Force intellitle; police deputies from Or-

lando. But you could see how

the building.

gence 25 years ago, people had viewed him as a leper, he said. "Here we're together. We enjoy mutual respect." One thing upset him a little, though. While perhaps half of the 600 or so delegates at the

convention had served in Vietnam, some hadn't seen any action at all. "There are quite a few phonies around, yeah," he said. "The people who weren't there. Usually they're fairly young. You can spot them. They know too much. They talk too much,"

In so far as there was any tension at this happy tribal occasion it sprang, as inevitably it would; from the male instinct to

sive Stars and Stripes, an old man in regimentals offered up a prayer to "Our Lord, God of bosts". Some of the diners ranged before him wore fresh new South-West Africa Special Forces battle uniforms. Others wore "I'd rather be killing Communists" T-shirts bulging with bellies and guns. The women, cager to please, turned up in long dresses cut to the navel or flak jackets over black leather skirts. "Be pleased, Lord," the soldier-preacher intoned, "to grant your armies victory over the powers of darkness." Whereupon a retired Sal-

brightly illuminated podium,

against the backdrop of a mas-

vadorean army colonel with a chest full of medals and a pencil moustache stood up to bestow "the Combat Star of El Salvador" upon Colonel Bob and 14 of his brave-hearted men for services rendered on behalf of freedom and democracy. Colonel Bob, the aging veteran of a thousand wars, stood eye to eye with to Colonel Luis Turcios, once the commander of a battalion famed for its brutality in an army whose death squads killed 40,000 people. Colonel Bob saluted and then bowed his head. Colonel Turcios bent over and placed the rib-boned medal over his neck. From tightened throats, a thousand roars rose.

Outside the ball, taking a smoke-break, sat Patrick Wills, from Bristol, and Ian Smith, from Liverpool. Patrick, who was 32, had spent five years in the French Foreign Legion and three as a mercenary in Croatia. Ian, who served in the British Army for six years, had spent ten months in Croatia with Patrick.

a young man, in his eagerness They were wearing suits and ties. They had come to the to impress, might cross the mark between illusion and reconvention in the hope of findality and blow a building full of people sky high.

Especially if he made a habit of participating in rituals like the banquet which closed the coning work and are disappointed. 'We haven't met one serious person here," said Ian. "Ninety-nine per cent of these blokes vention proceedings on Saturhaven't fired a shot in anger in day night. Anywhere else in the 20 years.

world you would have called it Patrick nodded, drew on his a fancy dress party. Either that cigarette. A 20-stone Green or a battalion of police, backed Beret lumbered past. What did he make of all this? "Frankly, up by men in white coats, would have been given orders to storm I haven't got the words to describe it. A game? Movies? Some American cultural thing? A thousand diners stood heads bowed, ten to a table, in I don't know. But I can't help thinking, really, that it's a bit paa darkened hall the size of St

Slovak police accused of aiding kidnap

Bratislava (Reuter) — A Slovak detective investigating the kid-napping of President Michal Kovac's son said yesterday that he would investigate letters al-legedly written by a former secret policeman who claimed to have helped the abduction.

"We treat any information on this case very seriously and we will also do so with these letters," said detective Peter Vacok, who is investigating the case which has rocked Slovak politics.

The letters, sent to Mr Vacok and some independent dailies, alleged that the state intelli-gence agency, the Slovak In-formation Service (SIS), had been involved in the kidnapping of Michal Kovac junior near Bratislava on 31 August.

There was no confirmation whether the letters, written by an unnamed person, were genuine or a hoax.

But Mr Vacok said: "It would be natural that a person, afraid for his life would try to announce some important facts through the media."

Kovac junior was dumped in Austria and he is now out on bail waiting for a Vienna court to decide whether he should be extradited to Germany, where he is wanted on suspicion of

The abduction took place amid a feud between the President and the Prime Minister. Vladimir Meciar.

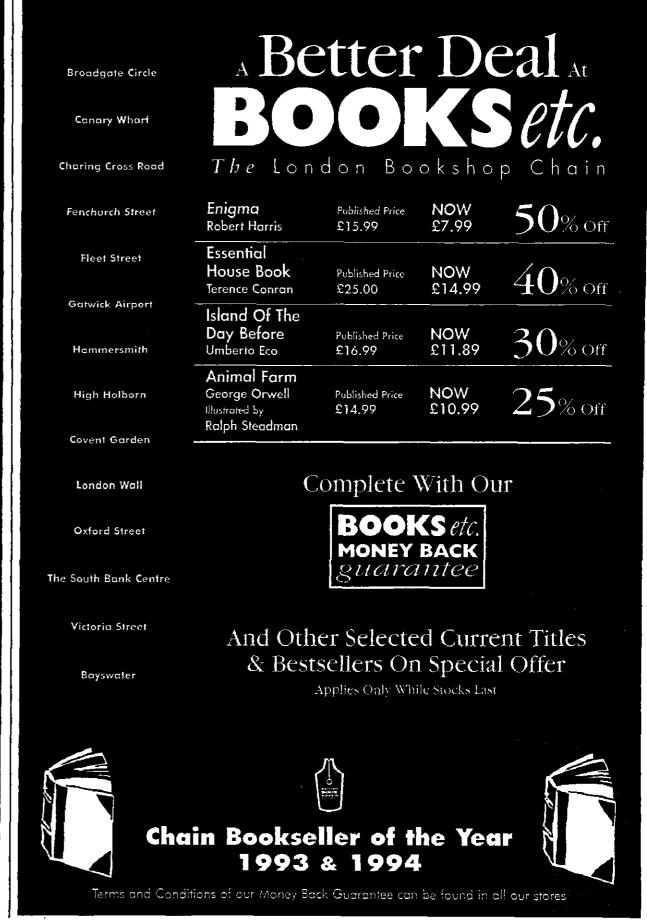
It has provoked speculation of SIS involvement. The SIS is headed by Ivan Lexa, a close Meciar ally and enemy of the President. The government has denied any involvement in the

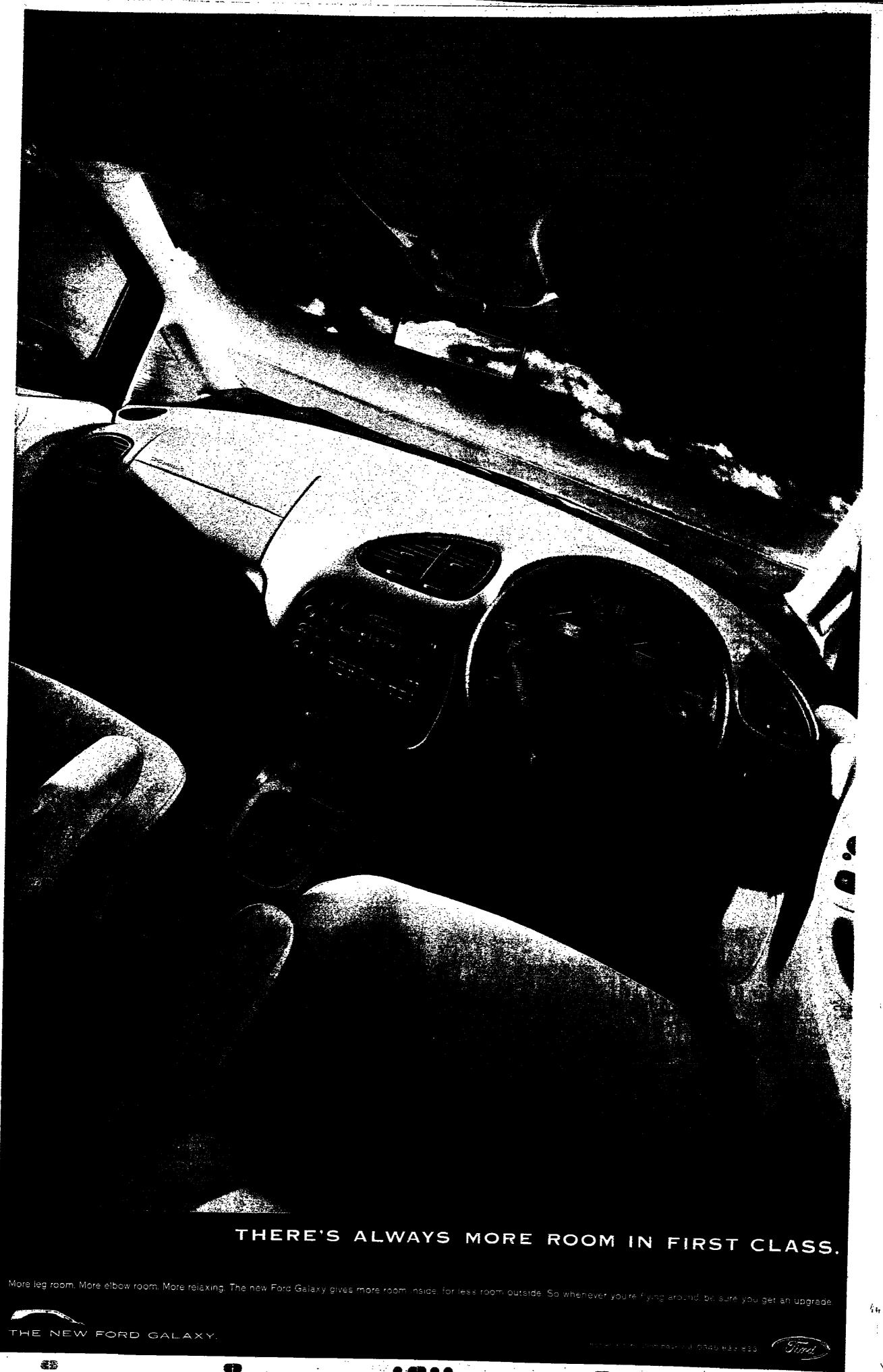
In one of the letters, published by the newspaper SME on Wednesday, the writer said he had been the member of an SIS group ordered to follow Kovac junior since 28 August, and to help in the kidnapping three days later.

At the moment of the crime their SIS cars had blocked the road to help another group abduct Kovac junior.

"I don't know who the members of that other group were, I don't know even if they were







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Secret EU deal over N-test let Paris off hook

SARAH HELM

France carried out its second nuclear test this week after securing agreement from Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, that the Commission would not use European law to stop the tests, according to a secret diplo-

The memorandum, written by senior EU diplomats, and seen by the *Independent*, describes an "understanding" reached last month between Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Mr Santer which led the French to believe the test could go ahead without risking action in the European Court.

Nuclear protesters believe that the deal might have been struck because Mr Santer wished to defuse any wider political split within the EU over the nuclear tests. The testing has already soured relations between France and many of its EU partners, adding to divisions over issues of EU reform.

Nicholas Van der Pas, spokesman for Mr Santer, strongly denied reports of any secret deal, dismissing the suggestion as "rubbish". However, fuelling speculation that France was given a green light from Brussels, the European Commission yesterday once again

failed to take any action against the question of application of France, despite the second test Article 34 would "not be carried out on Monday, and de-spite the refusal of France to give Commission experts access

News of the memorandum is certain to cause uproar in the European Parliament. Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist group, said last night that if the deal cited in the memorandum was substantiated it would mean that "a subjugation of the democratic procedures of the

On two occasions Mr Santer has told the European Parliament that the possibility of action against France is being considered.

The Parliament has demanded that the Commission take out an injunction in the European Court to halt all nuclear tests until all possible information on the health and environmental impact has been examined. It argues that under Article 34 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission has a duty to assess health and safety implications of nuclear tests before they go ahead.

However, the memorandum says that any such action has already been ruled out. According to the document France reported last month that following conversations between Paris and the Commission. France had been assured that

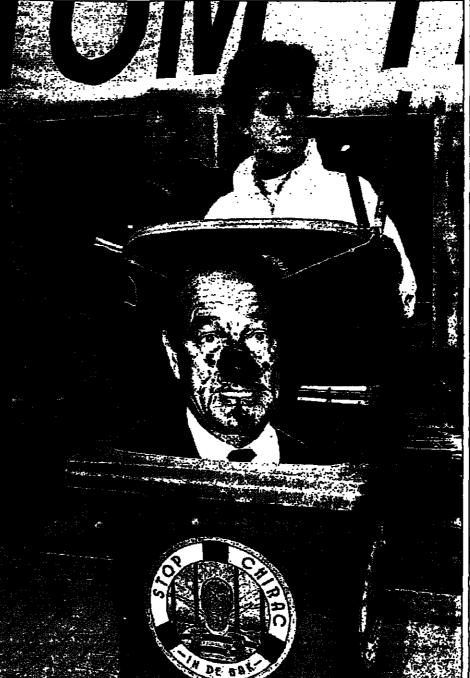
pursued".

From the start of the nuclear tests row the Commission has appeared impotent. There is little doubt that it does have the power under the Euratom freaty to prevent such tests pletely satisfied that adequate health and safety measures have been taken.

In order to have this evidence, however, the Commission must be alerted in good time to the fact that the tests are about to take place, and must have access to all the necessary information.

Ritt Bjerregaard, the commissioner responsible for the environment, has attempted to spur the Commission into action and dispatched a team of nuclear experts to review the safety implications of the tests. However, yesterday officials in Brussels announced that France had refused the Commission team access to a number of key

At a meeting of the Commission yesterday Mrs Bjerregaard called for a decision to begin legal action against France, but her request was rejected. Instead, the Commissioners decided to "insist" once again that France provide the necessary data, deferring further action for another week.



Jacques in the box: Protesters from the Dutch Socialist Party and Greenpeace Belgium (behind) demonstrate in Brussels yesterday against French nuclear testing

Poland's reform is safest with me, says Walesa

ADRIAN BRIDGE

President Lech Walesa yesterday sought to bolster his re-election chances by presenting himself as the only person capable of guaranteeing his country's continued commitment to reform.

In a wide-ranging review of his first five-year term, Mr Walesa said he had never wavered from his declared aim of leading Poland to normality". but suggested that there was still

some way to go.
"What is needed now is not so much a professor's attitude as a practical one," declared the former electrician and leader of the Solidarity trade union. "Sois obvious - and for that we need a president who is revolutionary ... and has the will to fight."

Mr Walesa's will to fight is legendary. In addition to playing a key role in the fight against Communism, he has also sparred with many of his old Solidarity allies and with nearly all of the six governments with which he has dealt in the

past five years.
It is generally acknowledged, moreover, that he faces an uphill battle to remain in the presidential palace after next month. According to opinion polls, support for Mr Walesa is standing at 16 per cent, well behind the 25 per cent registered for the front-runner, Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the reformed Communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

Mr Walesa is also facing

Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, head of the national Bank of Poland, who is also scoring some 16 per cent, and Jacek Kuron, a former dissident and labour minister in the first two post-Communist governments.

In total 17 candidates are standing in the first round of the presidential vote on 5 November but only two will go through to the run-off two weeks later.

Mr Walesa is looking surprisingly upbeat. Earlier this year, with opinion poll ratings at just 6 per cent, his political future was being written off. Now he is in with a chance. If he can beat off the challenge from Mrs Gronkiewicz-Waltz and make it through to the secciety still has to carry out what ond round, he will almost certainly reap the reward of an "anti-Kwasniewski" (or former

Communist) vote. In his campaigning, Mr Wale-sa is already strongly playing the anti-Communist card. With the current government dominated by the SLD, he is presenting himself as the only man who could act as an effective brake

on its powers.

He is also seeking to campaign on his record. In the past five years Poland has certainly made giant leaps towards building a democratic, free-market society and has edged closer to the European Union and Nato. Mr Walesa's critics charge that this has happened despite rather than because of the President. But he is undeterred. He declared yesterday: "I have always removed every obstacle to reform and I will continue to re-

Chernomyrdin says he has no designs on the Kremlin



Boris Yeltsin. "I have not planned; and am not planning, Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor to present my own candidacy for Chernomyrdin, vesterday dethe election of presidency next year," Mr Chernomyrdin told Itar-Pass news agency. He went out of his way to livered a fresh surprise to Moscow's army of Kremlin-,

watchers by announcing he had He went out of his way to no plans to run for president in scotch reports that his relathe new year's elections.

If he stands by his word, there tions with Mr Yeltsin had soured and that he may be desvill be disappointment in the tined for the chop. Nothing had come between himself and the West, where he has long been scen as one of the more President, he told Tass - and

Mr Chernomyrdin, 57, has been seen as the front-runner for the Kremlin's top job for several years, even though his current chances of success are questionable, given the level of disaffection with the govern-

ment among the electorate. -He heads the pro-Yeltsin centre-right electoral bloc Our Home is Russia, which has net to attract much popular support; even Mr Yeltsin - who instighted the creating of the bloc - had conceded that at could face State Duma (lower house) this

Although he is often widely portrayed as a colourless technocrat - he is a former head of the national gas monopoly - Mr Chernomyrine stock improved dramatically in June when he leapt in the international limelight to conducting televised televisione negotiations with Chechen rebels holding

nomic summit in Canada. The Prime Minister went on to survive a parliamentary vote of no

confidence in the government. Yesterday Mr Chernomyrdin's announcement was greeted with scepticism by some Russian political analysts who noted he had not expressly ruled out changing his mind. He has a reputation for being intensely ambitious; if Mr Yeltsin decides to drop out of the presidential race, the polit-

more inviting to the Prime Minister and his supporters. On the eve of a key hearing

in the State Duma, the government's draft budget for next year met heavy criticism in both houses of parliament yesterday. The Federation Council, the upper chamber, approved a resolution calling for revision to the plan to boost soregions and industry.

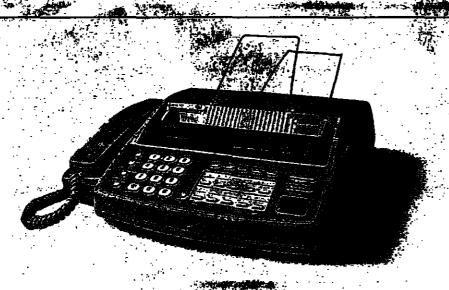
The draft 1996 budget con-

cial spending and subsidies for rate of 1.2 per cent next year,

resulted in a drop in income for Russians in 1995 and increased social tension in several sectors and regions," the resolution read. The plan calls for cutting spending and boosting revenues in an effort to squeeze the deficit and bring down inflation.

Russian government, which has

The government is forecasting an average monthly inflation down from 6 to 7 per cent forecast for 1995.



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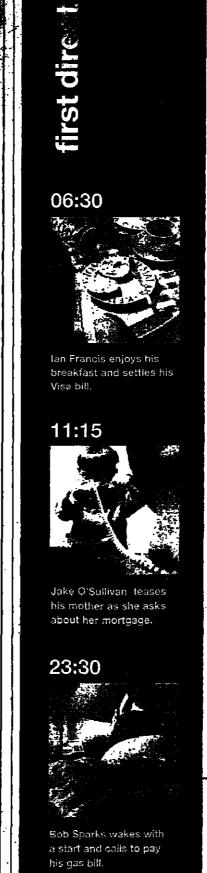
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international

Comoros coup: Paris backs government of national unity as mystery surrounds fate of white 'colonel' who seized power

Dawn invasion ends short-lived uprising

STEPHEN JESSEL

A six-day coup in the Indian Ocean archipelago of the Co-moros Islands ended yesterday with an invasion by hundred of French troops and contradictory reports about the surrender of the 66-year-old French mercenary who led the coup.

In an operation codenamed several hundred French troops, chiefly drawn from units stationed in French territories and bases in the region but also including special units flown in from mainland France, landed at dawn on the main island of the archipelago, seizing two airports and the immediate surrounds of the

French embassy.
The troops, which included Foreign Legion detachments from the French island of Mayotte, were supported by Puma helicopters and French naval units. "Colonel" Bob Denard. the veteran mercenary, freed President Said Mohamed Djohar, whom he had been holding since launching the coup last



ported to have surrendered, less than 20 hours after the French intervention. But later reports said he was still negotiating with the French authorities.

Early reports suggested that there had been a number of deaths near the airports but that French troops had suffered no major casualties. France's decision to send troops to the Comoros Islands - reversing Prime Minister Alain Juppé's earlier declaration that there would be no military intervention - was taken in the light of the damage the coup was doing to the Thursday and was initially re- future of the archipelago.

French foreign office officials said yesterday. The officials also attributed their about-face on intervention to the international outrage at the coup.

The intervention seems to have taken place as soon as was practically possible after the coup. The outcome of the coup - the removal from power of President Djohar - does not appear to distress Paris. A statement from the Quai

Comorian Prime Minister Caambi el Yachourtu, who sought asylum in the French embassy after the coup, invoking the defence agreement between the two countries signed in November 1978.

It was Mr el Yachourtu who announced an amnesty for the

400 to 700 Camorians implicated in the coup - though not for the 30-odd white m naries led by Denard - and the establishment of a broad-based government of national unity to be formed after consultations with all parties including those in opposition.

French officials said the aims

of the intervention had been toremove the mercenaries, described as "criminals", and to red'Orsay said that the military instore constitutional order. They tervention followed a request by declined to say whether a restoration of constitutional order implied the restoration of President Djohar, who enjoys only limited support among the 450,000, chiefly Muslim, inhabitants of the Comoros, preferring to emphasise their support for the new government of national unity.



Defeated: French troops marshal captured rebel soldiers at Moroni airport, Comoros, yesterday

Mercenary kept his French connection

Bob Denard, alias Colonel Bob, is the mercenary's mercenary, involved in more than one murky coup in more than one turbulent country, writes Stephen Jessel.

Alias Gilbert Bourgeaud, alias Said Mustapha Mahdjou, he was born on 7 April 1929, in Bordeaux. His connection with the Comoro Islands goes back at 20 years, when he helped Ali Soilih to power. He fell out with the new president, turning his attention to the west African state of Benin and an abortive coup there, before returning to the Comoros where he engineered the overthrow of his former protégé and installed Ahmed Abdallah as a puppet



IN BRIEF

Denard, who has Comorian citizenship, was technically commander of the Presidential Guard but to all intents and purposes was regent of the country until Ahmed Abdallah died in obscure circumstances in 1989. Denard was widely reported to have been implicated in Abdallah's death.

He was then evicted by French troops and went to South Africa before returning to France in 1993 where he was convicted in April of that year for his role in the Benin coup and given a five-year suspend ed sentence. But at his trial a series of more or less shadowy figures from the intelligence services made it plain that Denard's buccaneering mercenary career had, on some occasions, the blessing of the French state.

It was suggested that the relatively light sentence might have been a trade-off for Denard's silence on certain himself said nothing.

He founded a security firm and seemed to be doing well, trading on his African contacts. He is still under investigation for his role in the death of Abdallah in 1989.

British 'betrayal' of Hong Kong

Hong Kong — Martin Lee, Hong Kong's leading democrat, accused Britain of sacrificing the colony's interests for the sake of smooth trading ties with China, saying the Government had failed to confront Peking's threat to dismantle Hong Kong's legislature. But most Hong Kong newspapers welcomed agreements reached in London during the visit of China's Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, to smooth the handover to China in 1997. AP

Islamic outrage burns in Lyons

Lyons - Youths angered by the police killing of the Islamic radical Khaled Kelkal, a terrorist suspect, set fire to rubbish bins and 20 vehicles in unrest in Lyons' poor, heavily immigrant suburbs which has continued since last Friday.

AP

Algerian customs officers murdered

Paris -- Suspected Muslim guerrillas overcame three customs officers manning a roadblock in western Algeria, slit their throats and seized their weapons before escaping.



Hardliners mourn

Moscow - Alexander Rutskoi (left), a ringleader of the 1993 parliamentary revolt, and Gennady Zyuganov, head of the revived Communist Party, led a crowd of 2,000 hardliners mourning the 123 people who died in the violence. Deputies observed a minute's silence at the start of a new session of AP, Reuter parliament

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'Alternative Nobel' for Timor campaigner

Stockholm - Carmel Budjiardo, a British-based campaigner against Indonesian repression of East Timor, was among four winners of the \$250,000 Right Livelihood Award, Sweden's "alternative Nobel". The award recognises people or causes overlooked by the prestigious but sometimes contentious Nobel prizes. AP

Catalans issue election ultimatum

Madrid - Jordi Pujol, leader of Spain's Catalan nationalists, who hold the balance of power in parliament, said he would back a motion of censure if elections are not held by 24 March. His party withdrew support from the Socialists last month, leaving Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in a minority.

Iran jails women who killed missionaries

Tehran - An Iranian court jailed three women for killing two Protestant ministers and attempting to bomb Muslim shrines. Farahnaz Anami, a 31-year-old business student and employee of the National Iranian Oil Company, was jailed for 30 years, and two others received 20 years each.

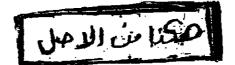
Capital exposure for Euro-weekly

Brussels - The first issue of the weekly European Voice, aimed at 6.000 MEPs, EU diplomats and European Commission officials, as well as the myriad business groups and lobbyists who seek to influence them, is due to reach subscribers today and to appear on news stands in all 15 EU capitals tomorrow. Reuler



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Adoring US flock ready for the Pope - but not his views

DAVID USBORNE New York

Pope John Paul was heading for New York yesterday to begin a four-day visit to the United States, the country he likes to call "God's playground", but with which he has an increasingly complex and strained

Hundreds of thousands will greet him at three outdoor masses, in New Jersey, New York's Central Park and Baltimore. Today he will address the United Nations General

Assembly.

But behind the cheering and the moments of shared worship will be the background noise of deepening dissent among America's 56 million Catholics if not with the leadership

whom they adore, then with his campaign by Catholics to op-strict positions on issues of pose it. reproduction, gender and sexuality.

The devotion among American Catholics for the pontiff securs virtually unaffected by the debate on his actual teachings. Whatever they think of the message, they apparently still favour the messenger. An opin-ion poll published yesterday by ABC TV and the Washington Post indicated an 82 per cent approval rating for the Pope and for his stewardship of the

When it comes to the parts of the message, however, they flee him in droves. According to the same poll, 93 per cent of American Catholics believe practising birth control is acceptable, 85 per cent think divorcées can still be good Catholics and 69 per cent said women who have abortions could also be good Catholics. Other polls have shown majority support in the US for women priests and a married

priesthood. Most sensitive among all these issues, because it crosses so completely into American political debate, is abortion. It was expected to be raised during a brief meeting yesterday between the Pope, directly after his plane landed at Newark International Airport, and Presi-dent Bill Clinton. The President is in favour of free choice on abortion, the pontiff, by con-

In turn, the Pope is known to have mixed feelings about the US. "God's playground" it may be, and without question its Catholic Church, with its considerable wealth and huge following, is one of the most vibrant in the world. But he also sees the US as a place in moral decay. In recent weeks he has warned of the new enemies of hedonism, greed and con-sumerism - phenomena not unknown in America. In a recent address, he noted that the "light of Christ" came from the East and that the "West has

need of this light". At the UN today, the Pope is expected to urge greater work on protecting human rights and ending strife in Bosnia and Africa. On his flight yesterday, he spoke of the need also to shore up the UN itself. One speaks much about the crisis of the United Nations but even if it is in crisis it must be safeguarded because it is worth having this ... family of nations."

The "pilgrim Pope", meanwhile, will spend his days in New York cocooned in unprecedented security. As far as is possible, he will be transported by helicopter or inside a Popemobile' fitted with a doubledome of bullet-proof glass. It will be much different from the last time he was in the Big Apple, in 1979, when he rode the

Where lavatory humour hits the bottom line

Some gags never fail to cause hilarity, and the Japanese Toi-let Squirting Routine is one of these. I had the pleasure of witnessing it again at the house of an Australian friend. All the necessary elements were in place: a polite dinner party atmosphere, a newly arrived expatriate - known in Japanese as

and, most important, a modern Japanese bathroom. The Routine goes like this: Scene: an expatriate dining room. Profiteroles are being

nama gaijîn (raw foreigner) –

served. Raw foreigner: Excuse me, darling, but where's the ..? Could I ..?

Hostess: Of course, it's the little door on the left, just behind

the . . . that's the one! Hostess looks knowingly around assembled guests. Guests fall silent with sadistic smirks.Somebody sniggers. Pause.

Raw foreigner (off): Eek! She scampers back in, water dripping from clothes, hair and

earrings.

Raw foreigner: It ... it just went off in my face! Assembled guests convulse with laughter, fall off their chairs, choke on their profiteroles.

There are few more danger-

ous and unpredictable domestic appliances than the Japanese lavatory. The torture comes in two kinds. At one end of the scale are the traditional squat lavatories still found in a surprising number of offices and railway stations. The hazards of these are familiar to many travellers in Asia. You need the calf muscles of a hardened skier to suspend yourself painlessly over the ceramic trough. Even when you are in position there is the constant danger of change, keys and perhaps passports slipping out of pockets and into the

But just as deadly in their way are the top end of the range: the techno-toilets which are de rigueur in well-to-do homes. The simplest model is called the Warmlet and contains a heating element in the seat - very comforting on cold days. Then there is the Washlet, a much more complicated affair, with a bank of controls which would not be out of place on the bridge of the starship Enterprise. As well as the heater, it features a bidet and blow-dryer - all in the single ceramic bowl. Each function has its own button, and there are dials controlling the power and temperature of the water jet. The problem is the functions are labelled only in Japanese.

This was the undoing of the victim at the dinner party. Having finished her lavatory business and washed her hands, she

chose a button at random, hoping it was the flush. Immediately, a small, angled nozzle extended itself with a whir from under the rim. Without warning, it sprayed hot water straight into her face. She will never

make that mistake again. The ingenuity of the toilet wizards is not confined to the private home. Many urinals in public buildings are equipped with a light sensor which detects the presence of a customer and flushes automatically when he moves away.

Plans have just been unveiled to install a new type of mobile toilet for climbers on Mount Fuji. According to reports "it uses a kerosene heater to dry-burn human excrement. considerably reducing the volume of such waste and facilitating collection."

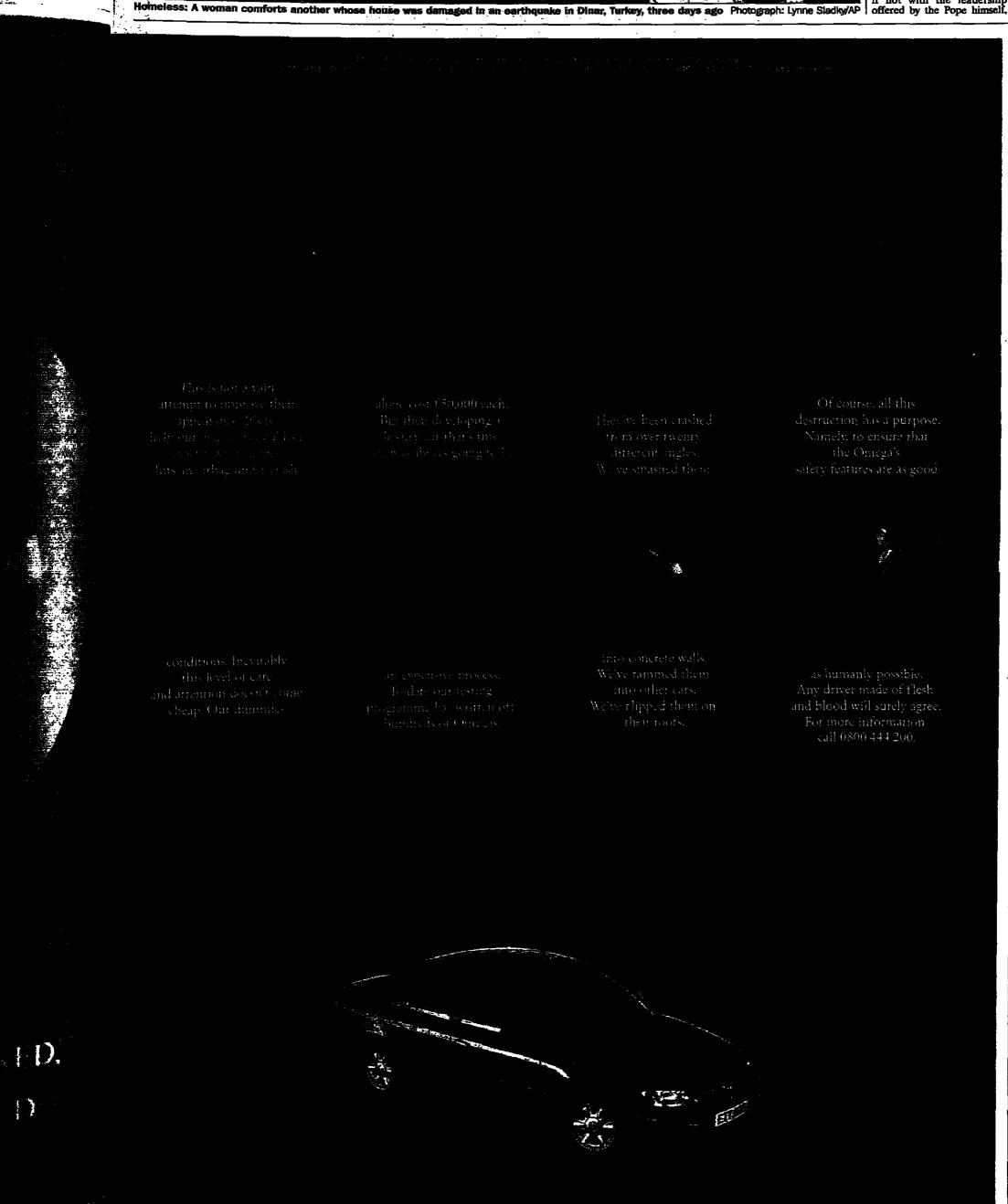
Japan's biggest toilet manu-facturer is Toto, a visionary corporation which once advertised the Warmlet with the slogan: "Your bottom will like it after three tries. Don't let people say behind your back that you have a dirty bottom." Toto's

Watch for the Squirting Toilet Gag – coming to a bathroom near you soon

big 21st-century project is the so-called Intelligent Toilet. which will automatically process and analyse waste and warn the householder in advance of any medical worries. But the company has a problem. Despite its immense domestic popularity. the Washlet has entirely failed to catch on overseas. In 1993, 720,000 techno-loos were sold at home at 100,000 yen (£635) each, but only 720 in the whole of Europe, most of them to overseas Japanese. So Toto has set up an entire department the New Concept Group - to get to the bottom of this imhalance. Questionnaires have been dispatched, and foreigners have been whisked off to mountain retreats for research weekends where their views on toilet hygiene are eagerly canvassed by marketing men.
The latest buzz is that Toto

has come up with its New Concept - a "Western Washlet", tailored specifically for foreign buttocks, which will be in the shops in the next couple of vears. Watch out for the Squirting Toilet Gag, coming soon to a bathroom near you.

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY



THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

Professor Safa Khulusi

Safa Khulusi was a leading Arab historian, novelist, poet, journalist and broadcaster, and a familiar figure in Islamic and in Arab academic circles in London, Oxford and Baghdad, He was a man of enormous intellectual capacity and an enduring love of the written word, and his name became synonymous with Arabic literature for generations who studied his novels, literary articles and poems.

Khulusi was born in 1917, the son of a Baghdad lawyer. His mother died when he was four and Safa first came to London from Iraq as a student in 1935, at the age of 18. He obstinately refused to leave the city during the Blitz, but returned briefly to his native land during the latter stages of the Second World War. At the end of the war, he declined a ministerial position in British-administered Iraq, choosing to further Arab nationalism through academic rather than political means.

He returned to London to take up a post as lecturer in Arabic Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, a post he held from 1945 to 1950. He obtained a PhD in Arabic literature in 1947, and in 1951, at the age of 34, became the youngest ever appointee to the Chair of Arabic at the University of Baghdad, where he remained until 1972. He was at the same time head of the Arabic Department at the University of Al-Mustansiriyyah, in Baghdad, one of the oldest universities in the world. Inspired by his poet uncle Abdul-Maiid Lutfi. Khulusi, with other young Arab writers such as the novelist Jafar Khalily, brought a renaissance in literature to a po-

litically unstable Middle East. During this period of revo-lutionary upheaval in Iraq, Khulusi remained politically neutral and concentrated on his writings. In 1958 the Iraqi king, Faisal II, and his uncle Prince Abdul Ilah



Khukusi: 'In Oxford we flower best'

were overthrown in a revolution and killed. One of their executioners was a former student of Khulusi's. When, in later life, Khulusi met this man again and questioned him on his part in the king's execution, his former pupil answered, "All I did was remember Palestine and the trigger on the machine-gun set

Khulusi's 32 published books include works of fiction – such as The Saddler's Daugher, a povel of the early 1950s, and Abu-Nuas in America (1956), a collection of short stories; literary history and criticism -Studies in Comparative Literature and Western Literary Schools

(1957), Jafar Khalily and the Story of Modern Iraq (1976); and religion and history – Islam Our Choice (1961) and The History of Baghdad (1962). Many of his books, in particular two works of the early Sixties, The Art of Translation and The Art of Po etry, ran to many editions and were incorporated into the curricula of schools and universities throughout the Middle East including the University of Baghdad, and universities in Damascus and in Amman. Khulusi also researched and published critiques of important ancient Arab manuscripts, and hosted television programmes on Iraqi television aimed at promoting a wide understanding of Arab literature and Islamic history. In the United States, he was invited to lecture at Yale and Princeton.

Khulusi came to Oxford in 1973 and was one of the team Who produced the Concise Oxford English-Arabic Dictionary of Current Usage (1982), edited by the late Nakdimon Doniach at the Oriental Institute. Both Khulusi's family name and his given name translate to mean purity" (Khulusi is an adjectival derivation of "khulus"), and both appear in the relevant entry in the dictionary. His articles appeared in Arabic journals both in Britain and in the Middle East, and his broadcasts on the BBC Arabic Service from London established him as a man of the spoken as well as the written Arabic word.

In the late 1970s he became an influential figure in Islamic society in Britain, while living in Oxford; in the 1980s, he would visit Iraq annually for conferences and stay on for two or three months of the British winter. When asked by colleagues in Baghdad why he did not return to Iraq permanent-ly, he answered, "Our roots are here, but it's there that we flower best." As his son, I have a lasting image of him sitting in his study at home in Oxford, with his legs crossed, and bent over a manuscript - a letter to another writer, perhaps, an article or poem of his own or a PhD thesis on Arabic literature from a student at Durham, London or Bath University.

He was elected Chairman of the National Muslim Education Council, helping to improve Islamic education whilst at the same time fostering cross-faith tion. He spoke loudly to dispel many of the myths which he felt marred his tolerant religion.

Khulusi was elected a member of the Jordanian Arabic Academy and in 1993 was awarded the Gold Medal of Literary Merit, by the Iraqi Arabic Academy, for contributions to the advancement of Arab literature. His last two articles for the London-based Al-Arab Weekly were submitted from his hospital bed, when he was aware that he had only days to live.

Sam Khnlusi

Safa Abdul-Aziz Khulusi, scholar of Arabic literature, novelist, poet, journalist, broadcaster, born Baghdad 17 August 1917; Professor of Arabic, University of Bagh-dad 1951-72; Head of Arabic Department, University of Al-Mustansiriyyah, Baghdad 1962-73; married 1959 Sabiha Al-Dabbagh (one son, one daughter); died London 8 September 1995.



subject in the 1980s and Hard-

ing travelled extensively to oth-

er laboratories world-wide to

discover what was needed to es-

tablish such a specialist de-

partment. In 1986 she set up the

first Clinical Neurogenetics

group in Britain at the Nation-

al Hospital. There, she and her

collaborators made fundamen-

tal discoveries about the inher-

ited mitochondrial diseases

which may result in a wide

spectrum of clinical disorders

affecting the nervous system.

P.K. Thomas, an expert on pe-

ripheral neuropathy, she stud-ied inherited peripheral nerve

diseases and spinal muscular at-rophies, and with another group

was looking at the neuro-genetics of various movement

disorders. She was the leading

authority on hereditary cere-

bellar ataxias and patients with

ataxia were referred to her

from all over Britain.

Together with her busband,

Lesley Sunderland

Lesley Sunderland was an artist-craftswoman difficult to categorise and delightful to encounter. She managed stylishly to combine several professional activities at once; in recent years these were handcolouring textiles - by blockprinting or painting direct - and

decorating china. Such items were destined for the bespoke interior design market and the homes of private clients, rather than galleries, for Sutherland's work appeals especially to those seeking, or elaborating upon, an eccentric strand of urbane English Born in 1947, Sunderland

studied printed textiles at Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art, graduating in 1971. As part of the "Swinging Sixties", she shared in the general enthusiasm for silk-screen printing, employing photo-derived imagery com-bined with hand-painting. Soon after leaving college she went to live in Los Angeles for a year and there produced a memorable series of sculpted, printed and painted gloves, later exhibited in London. These, masquerading as parrots or cacti, have been described as aggressive, and were the nearest

to Pop Art of her works. On her return from America, and until 1984, Sunderland taught the strangely named subject of "surface design" at Cheisea School of Art, carrying on with her own furnishing textiles at the same time. From the early Eighties came images of cats, in which strikingly realistic felines claw their way up long drapes or sprawl on chaises-

cinoma of the colon. She came

back to work but by the end of

August was unwell again and at

a second operation was found

to have disseminated cancer.

Over the long August bank holiday weekend she assimilat-

ed this knowledge and by the

following Wednesday gathered

people round to say farewell.

Her research fellows went to her

bedside at Barts, their projects

were discussed and even the

journal to which their publica-

tion would be sent was agreed.

during this period were hum-

bled by her immense courage. An abiding memory for some

will be sitting on the fire escape outside the Oncology Ward

whilst she smoked in the late

summer sun and asked her visitors about themselves, their

lives and plans. Although she

discussed her illness in fright-

eningly frank terms she did not

Those privileged to see her

longues. Sunderland never abandoned practicality in her work, which was always destined . for real situations.

Throughout her career Lesley Sunderland worked in parallel with her husband Jonathan Heale, the painter and woodengraver, making the pair loosely comparable with Lucienne and Robin Day or Alfred and Louise Powell. The Heales moved to Montgomery, in the Weish borders, in 1975 and converted a Victorian Sunday School into "Heale Hall", their home and studio. The house is dominated by one enormously large, high room which in turn is half-filled with a five-metre fabric-printing table. This was the engine-room where images - drawn, printed and painted -took shape; inspiration came as much from the farmyard or the flower garden as from oth-

er textile traditions. The two

artists shared in projects and in infrequent exhibitions, held

from the early 1980s until

recently.

It was thanks to Jonathan Heale's expertise as a blockcutter that Sunderland took up woodblock-printing on cotton or linen cloth, turning herself, inadvertently, into a unique craftswoman. The few other practitioners still printing this way use lino-faced blocks. The vast scale of Sunderland's motifs on the printed furnishing lengths demanded blocks mea suring up to 24 inches across, and the repeating patterns are as rich as Italian Renaissance porders

The fascination for the process, however, had come and one son deceased); died from quite another route, for Shrewsbury 18 September 1995.

the Heates had long been friends and admirers of the idiosyneratic textile artist Joyce Clissold, of Footprints studio in Brentford, west London. Clissold, who died in 1982, included humorous references in her designs and shared with Sunderland an absorption in craft.

spiced with a bint of concelusm. In the last 10 years Lesley Sunderland increasingly took to hand-bainting with dies and bigments on cloth, for chair covers, window surrounds and und sets of curtains with matching pelmets. Her subjects ranged from wild trellises with swags to superbly controlled and faithfully coloured botanical specimens such as vines, talins, pinks and autumn leaves. On a smaller scale, she and her husband continuously decorated bone china blanks (white, factorymade plates, teapots, etc) and found them the perfect vehicle for studies of plants and insects.
"Painted China" was the title of their last joint exhibition held at the Economist building in December 1993.

Acute observation from nature, particularly the structure and behaviour of stems and foliage, is the real strength which lies behind Lesley Sunderland's talent as a designer. Coupled with this, a special kind of oractical creativity drove her to realise all her ideas herself, under her own high roof.

Lesley Sunderland, textile artist: born Henley-on-Thames 17.October 1947; married Jonathan Heale (one son, one daughter,



of dying now is that it saves hav-

Anita Elizabeth Harding, neurologist born 17 September 1952; FRCP 1989; MD 1981; Lecturer. Senior Lecturer in Neurology, RPMS and Institute of Neurology, London University 1983-87, Reader 1987-90, Professor of utter a word of bitterness or Clinical Neurology 1990-95;

Hardhat: Armani suits

ing to decide about updating to Windows 95".

and C. D. Marsden

measure of Ha Clinical genetics was a new achievement in the Institute of May was found to have a car- friend was that "an advantage died 11 September 1995. Natalya Shpiller

Neurology was the number and quality of her publications as well as the value of research

grants she won. She lectured

abroad, and was regularly the

star attraction at international

Harding enjoyed company im-

mensely, as well as food, wine.

holidays abroad and smart

clothes, from being a junior doc-

tor in trousers she became an

internationally acclaimed pro-

fessor in Armani suits. She was

a keen supporter of her original house football team, West Bromwich Albion. She was a

skilled carpenter, too, and con-

structed a mezzanine floor in

her home garage —a proper car-pentry job with a full set of joists

which was subsequently ad-

mired by local workmen, who

inquired of Peter Thomas

whether his wife might be

looking for work in the future.

In April this year she was ski-

When she was not working,

neurological gatherings.

Natalya Shpiller was a leading lyric soprano at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, for 20 years from 1935, and at one time the intimate friend of Josef Stalin. Born in 1909, the daughter of

In a branch of medicine where

there are few female consul-

tants, Anita Harding had

reached the top and was poised

to take over as head of the De-

partment of Clinical Neurolo-

gy at the Institute of Neurology,

in London, at the time of her

Harding was brought up in Birmingham and educated at

King Edward VI High School for Girls. She qualified from the

Royal Free Hospital Medical

School in 1975. She started in

1982 as a registrar at the Na-

tional Hospital for Neurology

and Neurosurgery, where her academic potential was recog-

nised by Professor Roger Gilli-

att and she was made senior

lecturer at the Institute of Neu-

rology in 1986. She was pro-

moted to Reader and in 1990

became the first ever woman

Professor of Clinical Neurolo-

gy in Britain. Her chosen spe-

ciality within Neurology was

death, aged 42.

doctor, she graduated from Kiev Conservatoire in 1931, and went to the Opera and Ballet Theatre in Samara on the middle Volga. She was noticed by a member of the Politburo while on tour in Moscow and invited to the Bolshoi.

The Bolshoi singers and ballet dancers were controlled by the secret police, the GPU. headed by Stalin's hangman-inchief Genrikh Yagoda. Lavish receptions and intimate dinners were held for foreign diplomats

and statesmen, with the Bolshoi beauties in attendance. At one such reception Stalin noticed the attractive young Shpiller. She was 26 and he was 30 years her senior. Yagoda conveyed to her an invitation from Stalin for dinner at his dacha in Kuntsevo, outside Moscow. She was taken there in a black, cartained

GPU limousine. According to Georgi Malenkov, one of Stalin's deputies, Stalin had a serious involvement with Shpiller. This was confirmed last year in the memoir of another Bolshoi singer, Vera Davydova - who replaced Shoiller in Stalin's affections. During her 23 years at the

Bolshoi Shpiller sang leading

parts in Ivan Susanin, Sadko. and The Maid of Pskov, Marguerite in Faust, the Countess in The Marriage of Figaro and

Tatiana in Eugene Onegin. In 1940 Stalin himself approved a list of singers, includng Shpiller as Sieglinde in Die Wallaire, to perform at a private performance in honour of oachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister, who sat next to Stalin in his box. After the performance a dinner was served at the Kremlin for 700 guests, where Stalin and his cronies drank to "eternal friendship with Germany". Shpiller found herself seated as number seven among the women Stalin had invited.

and when in 1943 Stalin signed a list of winners of that year's Stalin Prize Shpiller was on it. In 1950 Stalin gave her a second Stalin Prize, which brought her many privileges. Stalin included her three times in his selection of those who were

allowed to perform abroad. In 1950 Shpiller was contacted by the director of the elite Moscow Guesin Music Institute and offered a job there training

young opera singers. In February 1953 a small book about her, Natalya Shpiller, appeared. But after Stalin's death in March that year many of Stalin's close associates were

arrested. Shpiller's fellow artist,

Her status remained high, and rival, Vera Davydova, was one of them. Shpiller only avoided a similar fate because she had not been intimate with Stalin for some years.

But at 44 she had lost her position. For the next five years the Guesin Institute remained her only source of earnings. In the 1960s she occasionally performed at the Bolshoi, but her career was over. In the 1970s and 1980s she was completely forgotten, and during Gorbachev's perestroika she avoided the press as best as she could.

Jeenne Vronskaya Natalya Dmitryevna Shpiller, singer: born Kiev 7 November and was included in to 1909; died Moscow 20 July 1995. their Super Bowl teams.

Sir Fred Warner

Fred Warner was perhaps the ablest diplomat of his generation and, with a little luck, surely would have risen to the very top, despite a certain irreverence, writes Hugh Lee [further to the obituaries by Sir Alan Campbell and Robert Cooper, 3 October].

When he had been in the Service a year, I wrote seeking his advice. I was still in the Army. a wartime officer stationed in a country under Communisticontrol, and had recently married a national of that country. Would this constitute a har to my entering the Foreign

"If you are a cleaner or a Consul-General," replied War-ner, "there is no difficulty. Otherwise, Mr Secretary Bevin says, 'We must 'ave the Service British.' "

One of your two excellent obited that he never wrote anything for publication, writes Robert Kee. He was in fact the author of Anglo-Japanese Financial Relations: a golden tide (Blackwell, 1991).

As for his not being an intellectual, well, he was one, but far too humorous and civilised to appear like anything so stereotyped.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, politician, died Panama City 28 September, aged 68. Panama's chief negotiator for the Panama Canal treaties in 1977, and a founder of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, which governs Panama todav. John Avers, American football player, died Canyon, Texas 2 October, aged 42. Played for the San Francisco 49ers 1976-86, and was included in two of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. S. N. Ames

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Ames, of Leigh, Surrey, and Tanya, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hart, of Camberley, Surrey.

Birthdays

Sir Raymond Applevard, biologist, 73; Mr Robin Bailey, actor, 76; Pro-fessor Sir Malcolm Brown, former Director, British Geological Survey, 70; Mr Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm, chief of the Clan Chis-holm, 75; Miss Diane Cliento, actress, 62; Mr Ray Clemence, footballer, 47; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 54; The Most Rev Joseph Cunnane, former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, 82; Miss Laura Davies, golfer, 32: Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, former chairman, Ferranti, 68; Sir John Dent, former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 72; Mr Bob Geldof, rock singer and philanthropist, 41; The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, 59; Mr Vaclay Havel, President of the Czech Republic, 59; Lord Holderness, former government minister, 75; Miss Glynis Johns, actress, 72: Mr Robert Kee, author and broadcaster, 76; Miss Barbara Kelly, actress and broadcaster, 71: Mr. Herbert Kretzmer, journalist and lyricist, 70; Mrs Kate Losinka, former trade-union leader, 71; Mr David Mellor, silversmith and designer, 65: Mr Bruce Millan, former goverament minister and a former Com-Communities, 68; Sir Edward Peck, former British ambassador to Nato. 80; Sir Douglas Ranger, otolaryn-gologist, 79; Mr Adrian Sindall, am-bassador to Syria, 58; Mr Timothy Smith MP, 48; Sir Richard Thomp son Bt. former MP and director of Dave Watson, footballer, 49.

Anniversaries

Births: Margaret, Queen of Scots, wife of Alexander III, 1240; Denis Diderot, scholar and encyclopaedist, 1713; Charles-Geneviève Louis-Auguste André-Timothèe d'Eon de Beaumont (Chevalier d'Eon), spy and transvestite, 1728; Chester Alan Arthur, 21st US president, 1830; Jean-Baptiste Edonard Detaille, painter, 1848; Robert Hutchings Goddard, rocket pioneer, 1882; Joshua Lockwood Logan, film and stage director, 1908; Flann O'Brien (Brian O'Nolna), consilies and along (Brian O'Nolan), novelist and play-wright, 1911; Donald Pleasence, actor, 1919. Deaths: Philip III ("the Bold"), King of France, 1285; Lodovico Ferrari, mathematician. 1565; Jacques Offenbach (Jakob Levy Eberst), composer, 1880; William Heinemann, publisher and playwright, 1920; Jean Vigo, film director, 1934; Leonard Rossiter, actor, 1984; Nelson Smock Riddle. composer and arranger, 1985. On this day: the Gregorian calendar was adopted in Italy and Spain, and this day became 15 October, 1582: Soain declared war on Britain, 1796; the estate of Chequers was presented by Sir Arthur Lee as an official country residence for the Prime Minister, 1917; the Cominform (Communi Information Bureau) was set up to aid European Communist parties, 1947; tea rationing ended in Britain, 1952. Today is the Feast Day of St Apollinaris of Valence, St Flora of Beaulieu, St Galla, St Magenulf or Meinulf and St Maurus.

Walter Goetz

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Walter Goetz will be held on Wednesday 25 October at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, London SW1,

English-Speaking Union Mrs Stella Rimington, Director-

General of the Security Service, yes-terday delivered the fourth in a series of lectures on "Furthering International Understanding held by the English-Speaking Union. She spoke on "National Security and In-ternational Understanding" at Skin-ners' Hall, London EC4, Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, was in the chair. Professor Alan Watson, chairman of Burston-Marsteller Ltd, also spoke.

Queen's Counsel Advocates holding, or entitled to exercise, full rights of audience in the High Court or the Crown Court and who wish to be considered for ap-pointment as Queen's Counsel are reminded that the closing date for applications is Monday 16 October 1995. Applications received after 12 noon on this date will not be considered. Application forms, together with "Notes for Guidance" for applicants, can be obtained from David Stobie, Lord Chancellor's Department, Room 6.33, Southside 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 0171-210 1714).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiments the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gollans, let Battalion Grenatier Guards stoom

Lectures National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "The Northern Renaissance (1): Gos-

randa Neave, "Drinking Vessels: ceramic", 2.30pm. Royal Institute of British Archi-tects, London W1: Coin St John Wilson, "The New British Library",

National Portraft Gallery, Jacobite Lecture Series: John Cooper, "The '15, the '45 and the Failure of Insurrection", 1.10pm.

Amsonachments for Gassins BIRTHS, MAB-BLACKS & DRATHS (Birtis, Adoptions, Marringes, Deaths, Mémorial attrices, Wei-ding samiresartes, In Hofstorians) should be sent in writing to the Geostic Editor, The In-septendent, I. Consold Square, Camiry Wheel. Loadon E4-501, Interplated to 077-293 2011 (24-bert spaceting machine 077-293 2012) or found 10-077-293 2011 or found 10-077-293 2019, and we charged at 26-50 a line (VAT extra).

Contributions to compensation scheme upheld

Investment Board and another, ex parte Sun Life Assurance Society ple and others; Queen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Sedley); 31 August 1995

The rules of the SIB's investors' compensation scheme can require members of a selfregulating organisation to contribute to the cost of making good the defaults of non-

Mr Justice Sedley dismissed Sun Life's application for judicial review of the investors' compensation scheme made by the SIB.

Section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986 provides: 1) The Secretary of State may by rules establish a scheme for compensating investors where persons who are or have been authorised are mable, or likely to be unable, to satisty claims in respect of any de-scription of civil liability incurred by them in connection with their investment business.

2) . . . the rules under this section

may - (a) provide for the administration of the scheme . . (b) establish a fund out of which compensation is to be paid compensation is to be paid
(c) provide for the levying of con-tributions from . . . authorised persons . . . A scheme under this section

shall not be made so as to apply to persons who are members of a

recognised self-regulating organi-sation except after consultation with

that organisation ... and no scheme applying to such persons shall be made unless the Secretary of State made unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the rules establishing it make sufficient provision...

(b) for securing that the amounts which they are liable to contribute reflect, so far as practicable, the amount of the claims made or likely to be made in respect of those

The SIB set up the scheme

under section 54 of the Finan-

cial Services Act 1986 to com-pensate people whose civil claims against participant firms in relation to the conduct of investment business were likely to go unsatisfied. The Personal Investment Authority, a selfregulating organisation whose members include Sun Life and those who sell pensions and conduct investment business, administered compensation payable by its members, to whom it passed on levies made by the scheme. It replaced Lautro, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, and Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory

LAW REPORT

5 October 1995

whose former members had joined PIA. Sun Life applied for judicial review of rules of the scheme on the grounds that its liability to contribute to the cost of making good the defaults of a non-member was unlawful under section 54(3)(b).

Charles Flint OC and Monica Carrs-Frisk (Allen & Overy) for the applicants; Michael Brindle QC, Michael Fortham and Veronique Buehrlen (SIB) for the SIB; Richard Gordon QC and Sean Wilken (Richards Butler) for PIA.

Mr Justice Sedley said that section 54(3)(b) required pro-vision made by the rules to produce contributions from the existing members of each selfregulation organisation, the amount of which so far as practicable reflected the claims made or likely to be made on them. The true purpose of section 54(3) was not to allocate liability but to provide for the means of discharging it. It was the rules which were to allocate

liability. Section 54(1) and (2) con-Association Ltd, not all of ferred powers wide enough by

rules under attack. Section 54(3) qualified those provisions not by limiting the liabil-ity of the members of the SRO to the amount of the claims against them and their predecessors, but by ensuring so far as practicable that the contributions made by the members of an SRO were sufficient to discharge the liabilities which they were likely to be called on to meet. What the amount of those liabilities was would be determined by the other rules.

There was no fetter in the Act on the mode of distribution of the burden of claims among different groups of authorised persons. To elect to place the burden on PIA members was arguably harsh but the outcome was a matter for the selfregulatory process and not for the court. Section 54(3)(b) gave enough latitude to allow members of one SRO to contribute in an amount which reflected the defaults of others who were outside the SRO but from whom it was judged impracticable to secure contributions.

The applications therefore

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

· Trade (1)

 $\mathcal{A}_{m,n}(\cdot) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{m,n}(i)} \mathcal{A}_{m,n}(i)$

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news analysis

Should the NHS buy expensive treatment for a few multiple sclerosis sufferers? Medical history is littered with such difficult decisions, says Nicholas Timmins

A bitter pill toswallow

A mother new and expensive ireat-ment hits the headlines - this unaffordable. Today the real cost of time beta-interferon, for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. The drug is not yet licensed but is expected to cost between £7,000 and £10,000 a year. A paper in the British Medical Journal warns that eventually perhaps 45 per cent of Britain's 80,000 MS victims might benefit – a poten-tial bill of £380m annually, or 10 per cent of the National Health Service

drugs budget.

A leading article in the same journal thunders that "clearly the NHS is not going to be able to meet the costs of new treatments - just as the Department of Health insists that the drug will not be rationed.

Is the NHS in crisis over new and high-tech treatments? The answer is no. There is, without doubt, a problem and, for the first generation of patients who might benefit, an acute one. Plainly, not everyone will receive it immediately, not least because there is limited manufacturing capacity and because more research is needed to determine precisely who will benefit and by how

The Department of Health estimates that beta-interferon could prove effective for perhaps only one in eight sufferers. None the less, some priorities will have to be set about who gets it, and the issue is raised all the more starkly because beta-interferon is not a cure: it reduces the frequency of relapses.

before; this is not the first time the NHS has felt itself at the mercy of a costly, even unaffordable, technological imperative. That first struck in the Sixties as a string of new and more expensive treatments became available. Health economists calculated in 1967 that 90 per cent of the medicines then available were unknown in 1938 and 50 per cent were unknown five or six years ear- reached the media because kidney lier. The NHS survived that apparent crisis and will survive this one.

Projections that such treatments are unaffordable ignores falling real costs over time as products become Bewick, a transplant surgeon at Dulwich Hospital, south London, virtually bankrupted his health authority single-handed by spending £350,000 - more than £1m in today's money - on an anti-rejection drug. Today, according to Mr Bewick, its real cost has fallen by more than 80 per cent and it is in widespread use around

the country. When Britain's heart transplant programme restarted in the late Seventies and early Eighties, the transplants proved so costly that Patrick Jenkin and Gerry Vaughan, the health ministers, considered

carlier. Again, scanners now do more and cost less in real terms than when they were launched, and the same is beginning to apply to the new keyhole surgery equipment and a range of other technological interventions. Medicine is a moving picture, not a static world.

At present, beta-interferon and many of the other new bio-technology products are expensive because they have to be produced in small batch sizes. Some in the industry believe that will always be the case and they will remain permanently expensive. Others hold that someone, somewhere, will find a cheaper way of producing them if the demand is there - a lesson that has applied in the past to a huge range of different technologies from computers to cars and telecommunications.

This does not mean hard choices do not have to be faced when new treatments first appear. In the late Seventies, in many kidney units the only people to be dialysed were married men, with children, under the age of 55. There were too few machines, the treatment was too expensive, resources had to be concentrated on those who would most benefit and had families to support.

That was a rationing decision far more brutal and harsh than any However, we have been here made in the string of recent announcements by Berkshire, West Yorkshire and one of the Essex health authorities which have been attempting to cut out unproven and ineffective treatments, or by the possible need to restrict the supply of beta-interferon - a treatment which, unlike kidney dialysis, does not save lives.

The dilemma over dialysis specialists made a fuss - but it may have created less of a sense of crisis because the process was less transparent and open than the one now being produced by the Governpurchasers and providers. The process may be more open, but it is no more difficult than in the past.

As more was spent on health,

ses remission periods and helps insulate nerve endings Why expensive? Cell stems are chemically manipulated - a highly sophisticated procedure How many benefit? Roughly 10,000: one in eight of all UK MS sufferers Success rate: it is not a cure. Only the symptoms of MS can be treated mative treatment: co-polymer-1 replaces lost protein but can bring on relapses. Alpha interferon will soon be available to combat the cause of MS Cłozapine

Cost per patient: £7,500-10,000 per year UK

licence: imminent Users and function: used for a minority of multiple scierosis sufferers.

Cost per patient: £1,000-£2,000 per year Date licensed in UK: 1990, but around since the Sixties Users and function: antiosvehotic used for treatment of schizophrenia Why expensive? Monitoring is costly: patients have frequent blood tests How many benefit? Not known Success rate: 60 per cent Alternative treatment: high doses of other anti-psychotics can cause a condition called tardive dyskinesia. (muscular spasms)

Cost per patient: £5,000 for first year Date licensed in UK: 1985 Users and function: used by children whose growth is stunted. May soon be licensed for adults to control weight and prevent ageing Why expensive? Made by an intricate fermentation process How many benefit? 4,500 children are treated each year Success rate: 100 per cent if problem is detected in time; reduced chances of success as the child gets older Alternative treatment: oestrogen and testosterone affect growth but not as effectively as

AZT (zidovudine) Cost per patient: £1,500 per year Date licensed in UK: 1987 Users and function: used for HIV sufferers with symptoms of ful -blown Aids or those whose CD4 lymphocyte cell count is declining. Inhibits replication of the virus Why expensive? It is administered in hospital How many benefit? 16,000 people Success rate: it is the only HIV drug that is resistant to many types of the virus. It slows the progression of HIV Alternative treatment: cocktail or combination drug mixture of AZT and Didanosine (ddi) which is still being

Cost per patient: £1,000-£1,200 a dose; three needed before patient responds Date censed in UK: 1993 Users and function: itially a treatment for relapsed ovarian incer, licence has now been extended to at relapsed breast cancer. Taxol is only used after other treatments have failed and

only prolongs life: it is not a cure Why expensive? Made from scarce natural product - yew tree bank How many benefit? Not known Success rate: 20-40 per cent Alternative treatment: there are other drugs but they are more toxic

Cost per patient: £5,000 a year UK licence refused: licensed 1993 in US Users and function: used to treat Alzhelmer's. Stops breakdown of neuro-transmitters Why expensive? Developing a new drug costs between £100m and £200m. It is the only drug of its type so companies can set the price. How many benefit? About 5-10 per cent Success rate: It is very toxic and can cause liver damage; 30-50 per cent of people would suffer liver damage Alternative treatment: no alternative

Cost per patient: £7,500 per year per person Date licensed in UK: 1994 Users and function: treats cystic fibrosis. It liquifies phlegm in the lungs and helps prevents infection Why expensive? A lot of research work involved How many benefit? 25 per cent of 6,000 CF sufferers Success rate: it is not a cure, but eases the condition Alternative treatment: daily physiotherapy. No other drug performs the same function

Erythropoletin ("epo") Cost per patient: £2,500-£3,000 a year Date licensed in UK: May 1990 Users and function: used for patients with kidney failure who ha stopped producing 'epo', a hormone which stimulates red blood cell manufacture. Why expensive? it's impossible to extract naturally: all the urine in the UK would only produce enough epo to treat 10 patients for a year. The hormone is extracted from a Chinese hamster cell How many benefit? 10,000 people in the UK use a dialysis machine; 40 per cent are on epo Success rate:

99 per cent Alternative treatment: dialysis,

too tired to get to a dialysis machine

kidney transplant or blood transfusion. Other

treatments have drawbacks. Patients are often

however - and growing nations, seemingly inevitably, spend a higher share of their greater wealth on healthcare - kidney dialysis became much more widely available. This still leaves hard choices to be

Frdered?

the doctor

Eight very expensive drugs

made when new treatments first appear. The problem is not unique to the NHS: it is a problem of healthcare everywhere. In the United States, for instance, the most costly and profligate healthcare system in the world, doctors are increasingly being forced by insurers and health maintenance organisations to work to agreed protocols of what can be provided in order to ensure that only effective treatments are provided and costs are contained.

If the beta-interferon treatment does prove to cost £10,000 annually per patient, then, when average earnings are just over £17,000 a year, it is plainly not going to be affordable for everyone instantly, whether on the NHS or not. Private insurance offers no answers here -MS sufferers are anyway not covered for their condition under Bupa-style policies - and beta-interferon would not be, either, because it alleviates a chronic condition but does not provide a cure.

How should such new treatments be handled? The first and crucial thing is to evaluate them properly. The history of modern medicine is littered with "miracle" cures and treatments which proved, on closer examination, to be of far more limited value than the optimists first

For example, for decades, the removal of inflamed tonsils and adenoids was by far the most common operation that ear, nose and throat surgeons performed - more than 190,000 such operations a year as late as the Sixties. But as surgeons and paediatricians came to realise that the condition cleared up spontaneously in many children, the operations dropped - so that fewer than 10,000 are now performed

Equally, the rapid, unevaluated adoption of the monitoring of babies appeared to offer the prospect of super-safe deliveries, proved to do nothing of the sort when applied

indiscriminately. Today, the lech-

nique is used much more sparingly and precisely.

Or take an operation for boring out the carotid artery after a stroke to reduce the chances of a second one. The procedure has been performed 20 times more frequently in the US than in Britain, leading to arguments that Britain was rationing it to the point of under-provision. The latest trials, however, according to Bryan Jennett, emeritus professor of neurosurgery at Glasgow University, show it is beneficial only where the artery has become narrow and occluded - the cases on which British surgeons have concentrated. Performed in milder cases, the risks of the operation have been discov-

ered to outweigh the gains. This does not apply just to surgery. Boots's heart drug, Manoplax, when fully evaluated, was just the latest in a long line of drugs that have failed to live up to their early promise and have had to be withdrawn. By the time betainterferon is fully evaluated - and its long-term consequences are, inevitably, unknown - it may turn out to be of real value only to a limited group of patients.

How should the decision be made as to who should get it? The department's approach is reasonable. It is to issue guidelines recommending that the drug be prescribed solely by consultant neurologists after a full assessment - ensuring only that those where there appears to be proven benefit receive it, while properly conducted clinical trials establish whether it is of value to other

Is this rationing? Only in the sense that it is rational. Will it deny the treatment to patients who might benefit? Some, initially, inevitably but that is part of the price of progress, of ensuring that, ultimately, healthcare money is spent on effective treatments, a requirement felt as strongly in privately funded systems as in the NHS.

There is one further point. In the same week that the BMJ was bemoaning beta-interferon's unafmedical journal, the Lancet, was reporting early but encouraging work on a vaccine for MS. It appears to offer the same benefits - fewer relapses, but no cure - to similar patients to those who look set to gain from beta-interferon, Should it work, its costs may prove a fraction of those of the drug.

Medicine does not stand still. No one can be sure that history will repeat itself and that healthcare will remain affordable, within rising health spending and funded by rising wealth. But it is a not unreasonable bet.

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Hottel de la Bên

Diary

JOHN WALSH

"So anyway," I said to Umberto Eco over salmon steak at Mosimann's (this is the kind of sentence one spends one's whole professional life longing to write), "what are the chances of your Italian publishers landing in court for corruption before your next book comes out?" Precious few, it seems, since Italian publishers, like their British counterparts, don't make enough money to warrant a bung to the taxman; but it hardly mattered. We were there to launch his new novel. The Island of the Day Before, and frankly, when you're with Signor Eco, you'd do anything to attract his attention. To have the black, bespectacled, hippopotamoid eyes of this colossus of learning trained upon you, even for a moment, is something to tell your grandchildren. Inside his badger-bearded, professorial bonce (Bob Hoskins meets Pavarotti), the wisdom of the ages wrestles with a fondness for James Bond and Mutant Ninja Turtles. Like the few geniuses I've met - Anthony Burgess, Peter Ustinov - Eco

radiates appetites which, in a lesser man, would seem gross. He knocked over his wine glass three times with tremendous unconcern. Between conversational salvoes, he selected a cigar the size of a drainpipe, fellated it with enthusiasm, then turned it sideways on and sucked it as though removing the butter from corn-on-the-cob. You couldn't take your eyes off him. But disaster followed. Discovering Eco was planning a book-buying

expedition in London (he collects 14th-century works of scientific learning). I asked what he coveted most for his vast library. "Anything, provided eet ees wrong," he said. "But most of owl, the work of Robert Flood. Mosta his

works, they fall prey to a microorganism in the piges, which are stain' red. I geef an'thing for a Flood book with white piges." Robert Flood? I asked. Who he? The saurian eyes flickered with irritation. "Seventeenth century. Breetish. "'E was interested in evithing - cosmologee, the circulation of the blood, the composition of armees ... Don't you find it odd, Professor, I

asked in my suave, we're-all-experishere voice, that he's completely unknown in England? An awful growl sounded in the maestro's hairy throat. 'E ees only unknown ... TO YOU!" he yelled across the table, which rocked with sycophantic laughter. Death, I discovered, is not, after all, the worst that can betall you.

Meeting Eco also threw up one of the trickier questions of protocol for today's globally renowned intellectual. How do you fend off someone who wants you to speak at their conference in 1998? Eco's celebrity means he is in constant demand to transfix them

The reverberating Eco with cabalistic motifs in Cambodia, dismay them with deconstructionist scorn in Santa Fe, knock 'em dead with the semiotics of motorway construction in Knala Lumpur. Only Tom Wolfe, I believe, gets rung up quite so much and has a similarly crammed schedule, with hardly a day in the next 24 months unaccounted for Camille Paglia, Jonathan Miller and Susan Sontag can probably boast a year's worth of lucrative appointments (and HM the Queen, of course, will find it impossible to build in a trip to the launderette before, say, next July). So how do you turn down invitations for the far future?

"Ees impossible," said the cannelloui bolognese, "You hafta say, naow, I HATE you, I woan do eet". Bad etiquette, Umberto. Lord Beaverbrook had a better stratagem when pestered for a meeting by an objectionable hack. "If not this year, your Lordship," pleaded the hack (in October), "How about next year? How about, I dunno, March the 12th?" "Impossible," grated Beaverbrook, "I shall be attending a funeral that week." By the time the importuner had worked it out, the phone had

Amid all the speculation about the epidemic of marital busts-ups -Bob and Paula, Hugh and Liz, Will and Julia, Ken and Em - I take my hat off to Hennell, the New Bond Street jewellers, for a bold initiative. They've been offering homosexual couples "commitment rings" to cement their relationships. The new-style rings (from £750 to £15,000) are round, but not quite closed, to symbolise the "space" that is apparently a boon to gay marriages.

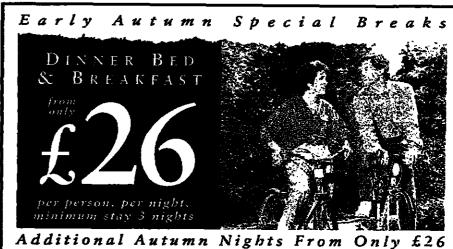
This approach is just what any modern relationship needs. They should market the rings for celebrity couples, complete with a pair of pliers and a tapered awl, to close and open the love token as your affection wanes, and thus let one's beloved know where he or she stands every morning - from the perfect circle ("I love you") to the three-quarter moon ("I'm going off you because you were so vile at dinner"), the two-thirds crescent ("I'm thinking of moving in with Derek") to the dismissive halfcircle ("I must once have found you among the more amusing of my parents' many friends") that falls off while you're washing up.

You have to admire the late Jill Bennett. She might have been a tragic, A simply wizard lizard

embittered, alcoholic wreck by the end, but she had flair. I saw her once at a party at John Mortimer's in Henley, filling the marquee with a tirade of effing and blinding at Thomas Schoch, the long-suffering stockbroker who was her final consort. Now the details of her will have been contested by the companions of her last months, Alison Braid and Linda Drew, who were aghast to discover that her estate of £600,000 had been left to Battersea Dogs' Home. I'm glad to see that Ms Braid and Ms Drew managed to claw back a few grand in the courts. But how piquant to find that, having initially insisted Mr Schoch should get nothing from her, Ms Bennett relented, leaving him all her ashtrays, except one. Not since Shakespeare left Anne Hathaway his second-best bed has a lover been so silkenly snubbed. And you can't help asking: who got Jill Bennett's favourite

A friend has just come back from New York in rantures about "Wigstock", the riotous one-day festival of transvestism in Greenwich Village last month. Among all the carnival stuff, one sight made his jaw drop: at the end of Christopher Street stood a chap in a spangled Marie Antoinette outlit with a milehigh wig and, draped on his shoulder, a long, sleepy-eyed, bright green chameleon – wearing its own purple pompadour. Where can I get one? Harrods?





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Labour – must try harder

Yesterday respectable old Labour, in the appropriately jowly shape of the former deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, had its say about education. There should be one, undivided service, he told the conference, a single "unified system of comprehensive education". To that end he condemned the education spokesman, David Blunkett's plans to allow grant-maintained schools to hold a slightly different status from ordi-nary schools. He was not mollified by Mr Blunkett's assertion that such questions of structure were beside the point. Standards and structure were bound together and could not be separated, he argued.

On this last point Mr Hattersley is surely right. Of course Mr Blunkett and Mr Blair deserve credit for for their stress on improving the quality of teachers, for accepting the need to measure performance and for sending out clear signals about the intention to raise standards. But there is nevertheless something unsatisfactory about the leadership's current attempt to sweep under the carpet the question of how and by whom access to education is to be controlled.

In the first place, according to Mr Blair, new Labour's crusade for education (unlike Mr Hattersley's) embraces the idea of a diversity of schools. The Labour leader painted a picture in which there would be schools which emphasised music. or maths, or design. "Schools with a specialism that brings out the best in their pupils", as he put it. This vision of the education system is both more attractive and more relevant than the bureaucratic egalitarianism of the Hattersley camp.

But on what basis will children be allocated to such schools? Labour has set its face against selection either by examination or by parental interview. At the moment geographical proximity ("catch-ment") is the main factor in the state sys-tem. Such a system cannot coexist with the

development of more specialised schools. So, just as denominational schools demand some level of religious commitment on the part of parent or child, specialist schools would need to be assured of some level of aptitude. Some form of negotiation between parent and school is inevitable; the challenge is to develop a set of criteria which is transparent and which allows as much weight as possible to the view of the parents. We have as yet no idea about how Labour thinks this might be done.

Mr Blunkett's stance is that a new edu-

cation system for a new Britain will come about through a drive to raise standards in schools through the efforts of boards of governors, local education authorities, inspectors and the government. These bodies will employ headteachers, monitor performance and take any necessary action. Which is fine as far as it goes. What it completely fails to do, however, is to harness the perceptions, desires and choices of the parents themselves as an organic driver of standards. Yet, as we have discovered in practically every other area of service provision, allowance for consumer choice provides an important stimulus to improving performance and signalling when things are going wrong. To be fair to new Labour, there are for-

midable practical difficulties involved in giving practical shape to the ideal of parental choice. We have not yet discovered how to "grow" popular schools, while managing the decline of those that are falling. But it is depressing that Mr Blunkett and his colleagues, despite seeing off the Hatters-leyites, have set their faces so sternly against any discussion of vouchers, even experimentally in extending access to nurs-ery education. As a result of such restricted vision they are in danger of leading a cru-sade not to the Promised Land, but only as far as the Slightly Better Land.

The war crimes of Croatia

President Franjo Tudjman's government came to power in Croatia claiming to represent democracy, European culture and Christian values. Its conquest of the rebei Serb areas of the Krajina was accompanied by renewed bombast to that effect and drew applause from Croatia's sponsors, Germany and the United States. It is now tian forces commi spread murder against elderly Serb noncombatants while looting and burning Serb homes. Under any of the international legal conventions which Croatia purports to recognise, these are war crimes.

The European Union and the United Nations have both gathered compelling evidence of Croatian atrocities. The human rights group Helsinki Watch discovered that 12 Serb civilians aged between 60 and 85 were slaughtered in a village near the fallen Serb "capital" of Knin. Then their corpses were removed by helicopter to Knin for burial in secret.

The critical point about the Helsinki Watch report is the degree of official complicity in criminal acts which it reveals. It is no longer credible for Croatian ministers to explain such excesses to their European

colleagues as the work of isolated elements. A government that claims closer kinship to Vienna and Paris than to Belgrade and Sarajevo must be measured by the standards it sets itself. President Tudiman cannot act by the rationale of racial supremacy at home and pose as a sophisticated democrat to the rest of Europe. Nor can the atrocities in the Kraiina be excused with the lament that Serbs and Muslims are also guilty of war crimes. The values of the rule of law and the observance of human rights are indivisible.

There has been so much hand-wringing over Europe's failure to avert tragedy in the former Yugoslavia that we may think sible to do much about th est atrocities. That is not so. It is precisely because Croatia seeks to distinguish itself from the other states of former Yugoslavia that it is vulnerable to pressure. Its European aspirations furnish a lever to correct and restrain its conduct. Croatia should be told that it can expect

no political favours and extract no economic concessions from the European Union unless this behaviour ceases and the guilty are brought to justice. The same stance should be taken by all European institutions whose membership confers respectability on the government in Zagreb. If Germany wishes to speak up for Croatia, that is its privilege. Other foreign offices and ministers will no doubt protest the risk of upsetting the peace process and the undesirability of annoying Mr Tudjman. That is as much self-deception as the declaration by the US ambassador to Zagreb that the flight of at least 140,000 Serbs from the Krajina "was not ethnic cleansing". We cannot thunder moral indignation at the Serbs while granting the Croats a licence to murder. In this case Europe can make a difference - and it should.

ANOTHER VIEW Matthew Lonsdale

We have been misinformed

Overall, I have faith in the value of the Advertising Standards Authority and my starting point is simple: I do believe that advertising needs to be regulated, for its own good and that of the consumer. And I prefer this regulation to be carried out not by some quango, but by a knowledgeable self-regulatory body such as the ASA. So I feel terribly let down when it puts its collective foot in it, as I believe it has done in its recent criticism of various environmental pressure groups and char-

ities. The ASA accuses them of "misinforming people by exaggerating or stretching the truth, exploiting the trust that the public have ... " in them.

A Greenpeace advertisement, it says, was misleading because it did not conclusively link chemicals dumped at sea with shrunken male genitalia. A Friends of the Earth cinema advertisement did not wholly justify claims of desecration of the world's mahogany resource. And a press advertisement which pointed out, on behalf of Animal Welfare, that before committing serial murders Jeffrey Dahmer mutilated small animals, was deemed shocking and offensive simply because it recounted his story.

The ASA has used two grounds of assault: the quasi-objective accusation of unproven facts, and the more subjective one of offensiveness. Let's deal with the second one first. We have just experienced a year or more of gruesome OJ overdose, several horribly graphic and distressing cases of child murder, and no doubt there will be weeks of feasting on the Rosemary Advertising Limited.

West case. Let us not forget that in the same year as Dahmer committed serial murder, society chose to honour the depiction of that practice by making The Silence of the Lambs an Oscar-winning film. And

Animal Welfare is being offensive? What Dahmer did is shocking, the plain telling of that story in a broadsheet newspaper patently is not, and the ASA ought to be made to stand in the corner of the classroom until it has worked out the difference.

The charge of unproven facts attracts me. Being unable conclusively to prove something has now become synonymous with misinformation and exaggeration, has it? If I argued with the ASA that, in a good cause, it is sometimes necessary to stretch the truth, it would come down on me like a sculpture of bricks. But do you remember "Labour's Double Whammy"? Do you recall an entire Tory election campaign fought on the "we-won't-tax-youbut-they-will-lots" platform? Might that also have been misinformation or exaggeration? And having bought the Tory party, we cannot take it back to the shop the min-

ute we find the claim faulty, can we? I suspect the ASA of double standards here. Greenpeace is an easy target; Tories less so. The charge of offensiveness should be dismissed, in this context, as irrelevant; and on the charge of misinformation we, the jury, find the precedent has been set by the Government.

The writer is a director of McCann-Erickson



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

split America

From Mr Trevor Lyons
Sir: It appears the OJ Simpson trial and verdict has split America on a simple black/white racial divide. How much better it might have been had the US aban-doned the binary "guilty/not guilty" model in favour of the tra-ditional Scottish system with verdicts ranging from "guilty" to "not guilty" via "not proven".

Had the OJ jury been able to select the "not proven" verdict, the prevalent sentiment that "we're-pretty-certain-you-did-itbut-they-haven't-quite-proved-it" could have been expressed. With a "not proven" verdict, OJ would still be free, but the patent injustice of a full acquittal could have been avoided. Honour would have been satisfied, and racial

tensions might have been calmed. One should not forget that any criminal justice system exists not solely to punish the offender, lace to victim and their relatives. A "not proven" verdict would have provided a useful neutral starting point for any subsequent civil case for compensation. Yours faithfully.

TREVOR LYONS Senior Lecturer in Law Staffordshire University Stoke-on-Trent

4 October From Ms Maia E. Adele Sir: As a holder of both British and American nationality, l would like to beg the British public to stop their inexorable complaining about the state of the UK judicial system and thank the Lord (or whoever) that they are not prey to the US system which, by now, must have been exposed to even the most believ ing among us as being corrupt, biased and blatantly misguided. The OJ Simpson trial was surely the end of US justice. Will there be reforms, and changes in the system to control the media accessibility to courtrooms?

Sadly, I do not think so. That this has been the most eniovable television Americans have seen in years, as the consistent viewing figures have demon-strated, is possibly a reflection on the dreadful quality of US TV programmes, but more probably a reflection of how Americans have been persistently bludgeoned into believing that this was some kind of trial about racial issues instead of a murder

trial. As a criminologist I find the whole situation farcical, incredible, but, more sadly, unsurprising There are admittedly many flaws in British justice, but before you shout about them in future count to 10 and think of OJ

Yours, M. E. Adele Brighton 4 October

From Mr Paul Ashton Sir: If Lord Lucan is alive, perhaps he should consider turning himself into the Los Angeles police for trial there. Yours faithfully, PAUL ASHTON Eastbourne, East Sussex

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ lent_co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Verdict that has It may be ugly, but it's part of our heritage

From Mr David Morton Sir: Peter Popham ("Brutalist, original, but a slum", 2 October) raises the contentious issue of listing buildings less than 30 years after they were constructed.

There is as yet no unanimity of

view about modern architecture and townscape. The Royal Town Planning Institute carried out internal consultation on the 40 modern buildings that the Secre-tary of State for National Heritage has proposed for listing. There was general agreement that some should or should not be listed, but on the majority there were widely differing views. There is clearly a need for a debate, involving the public as well as the various specialists, about which elements of modern architecture and planning should be pre-served, and it will obviously take

time for a consensus to develop. It may seem difficult to believe now that in, say, 30 years, there will be general support for modern schemes, as examples of the development of town planning; but the same could have been said about Victorian townscape 25 years ago. It took 60 to 90 years before Victorian buildings became obsolete. Because of the increasing speed of economic change, modern buildings reach that stage within 30 years, and are then often demol-ished or substantially refurbished.

From Mr Neil McIntosh

Sir: As the Labour Party heatedly

debates the future of grant-main-

tained (GM) schools, it is worth

asking what the fuss is all about.

schools because they are more

generously funded seems per-

verse. Easier, surely, to equalise the funding. Opposition on the grounds that GM schools are

undemocratic seems equally odd,

except in the case of those social-

ists who believe all publicly

funded provision should be

undertaken by one monopoly

supplier, which would destroy all

housing associations and many

The accusation that GM

chools are selective is more dif-

ficult. Many of the schools that

went grant maintained early on had no interest in becoming more

selective. The main stimulus was

the desire for control over their

own resources and irritation at

local authority inefficiency. There are GM schools that have been

markedly successful in increasing

But, typically for British poli-tics, the debate on how schools

should be organised has been

pursued as if there are only two

local involvement and support.

other voluntary organisations.

To argue for abolishing GM

Education test for new Labour

We must face up to the difficult decisions of listing a good and representative sample of post-war buildings now. No doubt, our successors will think that some of the choices made were mistakes, but that is preferable to there being a visual gap in the architectural and planning townscape development of the country in 30 or 40 years. Yours faithfully, DAVID MORTON

Convenor, Conservation Panel Royal Town Planning Institute London W1 3 October

From Ms Rosalind Gill Sir: While working as a housing visitor for Tower Hamlets Council, in the early Eighties, I had the dubious pleasure of visiting flats. in both Keeling House and Robin Hood Gardens to assess the tenants' housing needs. The overwhelmingly consistent message then, and over the subsequent 15 people want to live in houses with gardens.

Surely the best criterion by which to judge the merits of a building is: does it adequately serve the purpose for which it was built? Clearly, in the case of Robin Hood Gardens, the resounding answer by its occu-pants would be "no!".

The Victorian slums were

possible points of view. GM sta-

tus, which had attracted the sup-

port of many people by no means

on the right, was presented by the

teaching unions and local author-

ity bureaucracies as an exclu-

sively right-wing device, a sort of

privatisation by stealth. Of

course, many Conservatives did support GM status to permit

selection of pupils and that, cou-

pled with the fact that the active

support of this government has

sounded the death knell of many

sound ideas in recent years, has

made the criticisms of the left a

self-fulfilling prophecy. Only those with a strong ideological drive are likely to be prepared to

face the quite ridiculous degree

of opprobrium that a declared

wish to go grant maintained will

job in Westminster in the near

future and knew that job would

give me minimal time to be with

my children and would put them

under very unusual pressure, I

would be deeply disappointed

by colleagues who criticised me

for sending those children to the

best state school available in that

area. Similarly, if I were the par-

ent of a child at a school which,

If I were likely to be offered a

attract.

reviled not for their poor architectural merit, but because they lacked basic sanitary amenities. The basic design of the two-storey terraced house has

endured and continues to be an acceptable model. These are spurious grounds, therefore, to lead us to believe that in a couple of generations buildings like Robin Hood Gardens will come to be appreciated. For the benefit of future gen-

erations, Peter Smithson ico-architect of Robin Hood Gardens] believes, the building should remain untouched. That is cold comfort for its current occupants, most of whom I suspect are not able to exercise their choice to live elsewhere. When he says it is "frightfully hard" to make changes to a building like this, I suspect he is referring to the aesthetic profile of the design, rather than relatively simple improvements such as a concierge system, which might just make a positive difference to the lives of the tenants.

I am dismayed that architects like Smithson do not seem to have learnt the all too obvious lessons from their mistakes. List Robin Hood Gardens? Torching it might be more appropriate! Sincerely, ROSALIND GILL

London, SE9 2 October

achieved.

2 October

Yours faithfully,

NEIL MCINTOSH

Chief Executive

Reading, Berkshire

CFBT Education Services

Sir: If new Labour is based on the

democratic principles of com-

enables bright youngsters whose

parents cannot afford the fees to

only the rich can send their chil-

brightest have no access to the

This question is the most cru-

cial test of genuine socialist con-

version I can think of.

best education.

Yours sincerely,

TREVOR COX

Crovdon

There is no community when

go to independent schools.

Marshall Plan for Bosnia

From Mr John Pedler Sir, For over a year now several observers, including myself (Letters, 13 May 1994), have been lobbying for a mini-Marshall Plan for Bosnia, to be offered to both sides in the conflict harmonic and the confl sides in the conflict before a ceasefire as a means of obtaining peace. The donor powers, meeting in Rome on 5 and 6 October, should consider this option.

Until the Croatian and Bosnian offensives in Krajina and north-west Bosnia, the only likely peace effectively involved a division of Bosnia between the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and a still armed "Republika Srpska" bent on a subsequent anschluss: with Serbia. Such a peace would be inherently unstable for obvious geographic reasons. It would also reward aggression and the policy of 'ethnic cleansing".

Now another peace is tanta-Herzegovina with a Serb autonomous region and the prospect of reassimilation of the Serbs, all groups having their security guaranteed by Nato forces.

Peace by diplomacy invariably reflects military and economic realities. If the international community wants to shorten the fighting, it should offer its reconstruction basket to both sides now on the strict without changing its pupil intake, had improved hugely since going GM, I would find it hard to forconditions that Brian Atwood, head of the US Agency for International Development, give any political party that risked spelt out last week: human destroying what had been rights, disarmament, voluntary return of refugees, and normal relations between the three countries concerned.

If the extremist Serb leaders refused, as Stalin refused the Marshall Plan, the discontent of large numbers of demoralised Serbs could destabilise them. (As those of us who have visited Republika Srpska know, morale is its Achilles' heel). If they munity and social justice and not accepted, real peace would have just on Marxist dogma, there is no reason why it should not preserve arrived. Let us hope that, at Rome, donors will let money and develop the Government's Assisted Places Scheme, which talk now. Yours sincerely,

JOHN PEDLER Opatija, Croatia October

dren to the best schools; there is Chirac's big risk no social justice if many of the

From Dr Christopher Williams Sir: Further French testing raises a crucial question. How in the future can we prevent a single national leader posing a threat to global security against global democratic will?

Chirac's actions stem from political self-interest, not concern for global safety. President Mitterrand had suspended tests, so they are not imperative. As other nations do not now need primitive "does it go bang" testing, the main effect on French science is to advertise its inadequacies.

People are not ignorant of the need to take risks to improve security, but risk must be shared. The post-Chirac era must be marked by an end to risk-taking that enhances the security of some at the expense of the security of others.

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS Environmental Victims Project Global Security Programme University of Cambridge Cambridge 2 October

Imperial defence

From Mr C. S. McMenamin

Sir: What a confused argument Charles Fyffe (Letters, 4 October) makes against the metric system He claims that metric is at once too simplistic and too difficult to use, and attempts to induce from the fact that 1,000 cc (1 litre) of pure water weighs Ikg that the "centi" litre (1/100th of a litre) and the cubic centimetre should be equal. Fortunately, these arguments (and the majority of others of the same vein being used at the moment) will not stop the rest of this country's population getting on with their daily business, in whatever system of measurement.

The parallels of this change with monetary decimalisation in the early Seventies are many, and just as then it will prove to be a sensible one that makes people's lives easier. In the meantime, may I suggest Mr Fyffe saves his sight and starts to use the centimetre to measure length: it's about two-fifths of an inch. Yours faithfully. CONOR MCMENAMIN

Brighton 4 October

From Mr Michael Smith Sir: I am disappointed with your paper's glib writing off of the imperial weights and measures system ("Drop your feet and use

your fingers," 30 September) and suggestion that no one will regret its passing. This is in marked contrast to your support for another venerable institution, Greenwich Naval College.

While bound to support your campaign on behalf of Greenwich, I do not accept your basic premise that the Imperial system is difficult to use and therefore it should be abolished. I will continue to use the imperial system in my own home whatever the Independent's view of what is - or is not - of cultural and traditional miportance. Yours faithfully.

MICHAEL SMITH Ware, Hertfordshire

comment

Egalitarians versus angry parents

The education debate yesterday in Brighton produced a clash between two wholly different worlds

When a conference comes politi-cally alive the result is exhilarating but brutal. From the deep dark heart of Labour's conscience came Roy Hattersley's roar of fury about selective schooling. Drama. Uproar. He was met by an savage counterattack from David Blunkett. Sensation. tion. We rarely see personal animos-ity so nakedly displayed these days. It

was very satisfying.

More than that, though, it was a modest moment of history. Hattersley was speaking for Labour's historical egalitarianism, famously summarised by Tony Crosland's promise to himself to destroy "every fucking grammar school" in the country. Blunkett, though, was speaking as a parent who has two children at a comprehensive school today and knows what followed. And he carried the day.

Comprehensive education matters to Labour more than any other single issue except the NHS. This is partly because the party has so many members who are teachers and lecturers. But it's also because Labour is heavily dominated by middle-class people whose parents are, or were, working-class and who have risen in life because of free state education.

So the current failures of the comprehensive system, experienced by Lahour parents, too, are a source of real pain to the party. They are rhetor-ically explained away as entirely the result of Tory meanness and Tory malice. Yesterday, the first speaker on behalf of the party's national executive, Catherine Taylor, offered three classic Labourist propositions on this theme. She told us that vandalism in good reasons.

Marshalli.

for Bosni.

schools was a result of underfunding, that the Government was "trying to wipe out the teaching profession" and that "schools do not fail, but the

system does." Wrong wrong wrong.
Of course underfunding is real. Even the current Education Secretary privately admits it. Class sizes are too high, buildings are decaying, valuable teachers redundant. But who believes that more money, and nothing more, would reverse the middle-class flight from comprehensive schools? It is finally becoming permissible, even in the Labour Party, to admit that there's a lot more to say. There are bad teachers, ill-disciplined schools and a lazy lack of rigour to blame as well.

It may be that the single great dis-aster of British post-war education was that comprehensive schooling coin-cided with the fashions for child-centred teaching, mixed-ability classes and other experiments. Some of these may work for some children in some schools with very small classes. But in large mixed schools their results have been mostly bleak and sometimes catastrophic. A schooling revolution which was meant to liberate millions of children ended up by betraying many of them.

Yesterday, Roy Hattersley ignored this. He romanticised comprehensive schooling and, by demonising a few selective schools, missed the point. The trouble isn't that some wicked headmasters are trying to pack their schools with clever children. It is that so many middle-class people are des-perately trying to escape from com-prehensive schools – and for very



Columnist of the Year

The Blunkett-Hattersley clash was really between different worlds

For the truth is that if the grant-maintained schools and the scattering of grammar schools were outlawed tomorrow, Britain would still have a two-tier education system.

It is difficult to pin down how many of those parents who can find the money to do so, currently send their children to private schools. According to the OPCS, there are 740,000 children who come from professional, managerial and skilled non-manual households, and 560,000 children in private schools. Some of the first group won't be able to pay private fees; some of the latter will be children from abroad. But this seems to confirm anecdotal evidence that a very large proportion of those who can buy their children out of comprehensives do so. And we haven't even mentioned the large numbers who have bought educational privilege through mortgages, moving to better areas. The and it is fair enough for Labour to try

state education is, what might bring them back? The Conservative answer has been "choice". But this looks like a dead-end: for most parents across most of the country, there isn't a real choice. A market in schools, like a market in anything else, requires there to be waste. A supermarket selling 10 kinds of sandwich throws away sandwiches each evening. An educational system offering varieties of school requires surplus places. Yet for sound

ment wants to squeeze out every sur-plus place in the state sector. Unless we are vastly to increase the schools budget or are prepared to allow different mini-schools to co-exist on the same site, and in private homes, or are prepared to use a voucher system, we can forget about choice as the nswer to state education. Thus far, Labour has looked at the idea of vouchers, biased in their value to ben-

public finance reasons, the Govern-

undergone years of rapid change. In all this turmoil how much does the future of grant-maintained schools, the subject of Hattersley's revolt, matter? He was right to argue that allowing selection in the state system would finally destroy comprehensive education. You might as well then subsidise private schools and be done with it. Some schools have been sliding towards selection by interviewing parents (something that is against current departmental rules)

middle classes, in short, are leaving.

The real question for supporters of

The Blunkett-Hattersley clash was really between different worlds, different ways of thinking. Hattersley was expressing the anger of an old social-democratic egalitarian and a centraliser. He was speaking ideologically, abstractly, to a party which for decades has been unwilling or unable to con-front reality about the failures of state education. "For God's sake, let's stop

apologising about comprehensive

schools," he said. Oh no? We could do

with some apologies, some day, from

Blunkett, by contrast, spoke for the current reality of state education, a world where schools do fail. It is a world in which middle-class parents who stay with comprehensives, like Blunkett and Jack Straw, are the minority and parents like Tony Blair, who don't, are the norm. There's no point bellowing; this is Britain now.

Blunkett wants to redeem state education by a political counter-attack on bad teaching, low standards, poor discipline and failed teaching methods. efit poorer families, but has rejected it as too costly and experimental to impose on schools which have already He wants a cultural revolution, rather than an organisational one. This is a difficult project for politicians to embark on, which involves confrontation with many professionals. I have my doubts about how much can be done. But no one who has heard Blunkett on the subject can doubt his determination to try. The iron has entered his soul about this.

For a fierce argument or a wellmade sentence, there is no politician more valuable than Roy Hattersley. But as an Education Secretary, I'd go for the angry parent any day.

Star-spangled banner of justice

The OJ case has overshadowed America's great commitment to its system of law, says Gary McDowell

intense scrutiny placed on the criminal justice system of the United States, from debates over the morality of the death penalty to the trial of OJ Simpson. For the most part, commentary has been less than favourable; the acquittal of Mr Simpson now seems to have confirmed the worst suspicions

of a good many people.
It would be foolish to suggest that the system is flawless; thus does it merit two, rather than a rousing three cheers. But it is as good as any, and better than most, and deserves a great deal more respect than it has been getting.
The OJ Simpson trial is a

case in point. The combination of the high profile of the defendant, the extraordinary legal defence team his wealth allowed him, the never-blinking eye of television coverage and, of course, the jury's conclusion after only four hours of deliberation that he was not guilty as charged, has obscured more about the criminal justice system than it has revealed.

The fact is, the system worked pretty well. But it has been nearly impossible to see that because of the inordinate attention given to the racial aspects of the case. Throughout the often mind-numbing twists and turns of the process. one had the impression that racism in America was on trial. not a man accused of two counts of murder.

The seemingly endless delays and procedural detours. the side-bar conferences between legal counsel and Judge Lance Ito, and the various motions on this or that minute and arcane point, were a constant source of irritation to most people. Such details got in the way of the big ques-tions: did this rich and famous black man kill his attractive white ex-wife and her male companion or not? Perhaps more important, would a predominantly black jury in racially torn Los Angeles ever convict such a man? Drama,

wide public. But in truth, it is precisely those mind-numbing twists and turns, the delays and detours and the obscure questions of process that make the American legal system worthy of admiration. It is the commitment to due process of law, even in a case as unusual as that of OJ Simpson, that makes overshadow that fact.

caught the attention of a world-

America shine. The process was such that The writer is director of the Insti-

The past year has seen jailed; he got little, if any, special treatment, returning to his cell every night in shackles and prison garb. The public aspect of the trial itself was such as to ensure no stone was left unturned. And even the most disquieting part of the process

the compelling evidence of
the noxious racism of the detective Mark Fuhrman - was found out and brought to bear on his testimony. He may well face criminal charges himself

for perjury. can citizens found that there was reasonable doubt as to Simpson's guilt. That is all it takes, or should take, to preclude a verdict of guilty. And that was not necessarily a matter of racism on the part of the jury; not all blacks thought him

innocent, nor did all whites think him guilty. What has been lost in the emotional shuffle surrounding the Simpson spectacle is how, every day, in courthouses across the United States, hundreds of trials work their way to sound conclusions. The routine business of the American judicial system is one that consists of a constant attention to a defendant's rights - includ-

Reasonable doubt is all it should take to preclude a verdict of guilty

ing legal counsel being provided, writes of habeas corpus being issued, and countless other procedural niceties that, in sum, serve to see that justice Even those cases most hor-

rific to some, those of convicted murderers spending years on death row while endless appeals are undertaken on their behalf, are the result of constitutional protections worthy of any civilised society.

No one would dare to say But it would be hard to think of any other system where one would be likely to do better if arrested for a serious crime than in the United States. Its abiding dedication to political liberty and the rule of law -however frustrating it may be - assures that. The extraneous issues of the Simpson trial should not be allowed to

even with his wealth and fame, nue of United States Studies at Simpson was charged and the University of London.

Labour's technology deal with BT could have unintended and unforeseeable consequences

Wired up to some big questions

Before you allow yourself to become too overwhelmed by the news that if Labour gets in, BT will services such as movies over its netnews that if Labour gets in, BT will connect every school and library to the information superhighway for free, ponder three facts. Number one is that Britain is already world leader in one aspect of computer software: somewhere between 30 and 40 per cent of the software of the world's computer eames is written here. Number two is that some of the mobile phone companies already offer, "subject to sta- from Bill Bryson's wonderful book on superhighway. And number three is Made in America), the product was that in 1939, when the first television much more successful than the writer sets went on sale in America (the BBC had been broadcasting for years), the New York Times opined that it would never be a serious competitor to radio because "people must sit and keep their eyes glued to the screen; the average American family hasn't time

The point about the first fact is that being computer literate is as much thinking of new games which enable more kids to kill more people on screen in more exciting ways as it is producing a new CD-Rom encyclopaedia on the collapse of Roman

The point about the second fact is that every sensible consumer business wants to get children into the habit of buying its products. BT's plan is much more akin to the sales gimmicks of the mobile phone people, or for that matter the way in which the soft-drink vending companies get their machines into schools, than it is an altruistic superhighway. I happen to believe that

work, will allow it to continue making money in a world where phone calls themselves become virtually free.

And the point about TV in America? It is that history is littered with examples of people being either wildly pessimistic or absurdly optimistic about the take-up of a new technology.

In that particular example (taken expected. But one has only to recall the Eagle children's comic of the Fifties to see the opposite effect. We did get to the moon pretty much on schedule, but space exploration has subsequently ground to a halt. And we still do not all have personal helicopters, jet-packs, or even those natty video phones on which Dan Dare and Digby used to hold their gung-ho conversations. The technology does exist for people to have personal heli-copters - and a few company chairmen do; there are jet-packs - they have provided a spectacular finale for Michael Jackson's concerts; and video phones may at last be coming into their own; but none of these innovations is yet a

commercial success. So the fact that something is technically possible does not necessarily mean it will become a commonplace feature of day-to-day life.

And so it is with the information



It is quite possible that the Internet may prove a passing fad, nice for nerds

our lives will be as radically changed by communications technology over the next 30 years as the lives of people were changed by the car between, say, 1950 and 1980. But just as no one foresaw in 1950 the impact the car would have on shopping patterns - the weekly shop at the supermarket instead of the daily trek to greengrocer, butcher and baker - so it is very hard to see the full social consequences of the coming advances in telecommunications.

It is a safe assumption that fixedlink phone calls anywhere in the world will become so cheap that there may not be any point in charging individnally for them. We will pay a modest monthly fee to cover all calls anywhere in the world.

We can also assume that the high-

capacity links will carry anything we want them to carry: colour faxes and video phone links (at last); a movie or a CD-Rom; the latest TV news at the time we choose to see it; junk mail, if that is what we want. I expect, too, that there will be electronic translation services, so that if we wish to talk to a Japanese-speaking friend we will flick the set on to translation and have some sort of conversation.

And maybe on the same system, maybe on a different one, we will have that works, if we want it, anywhere in the world. We will probably have a single number or telecommunications name for life. Never again need we forget a phone number.

But there is a world of difference between what technologies can do and what we want them to do, or rather what we are prepared to pay for them to do. We will self-evidently pay an enormous amount for mobility. Mobile phones have been described, like second marriages, as a triumph of hope over experience, but their takeup is still growing at an astonishing rate. We will pay a lot for entertainment, judging by the experience of pay-TV shows for adults and the video games industry for children.

What is much less clear is whether there is really an enormous market for the goodies that enthusiasts for the superhighway claim. We may want 2,000 TV channels, but we may not. We may want to be able to video shop, but not if it costs a 20 per cent markup. We may want to e-mail all Rabbit's

the replies.

It is almost politically incorrect to say so but it is quite possible that the Internet may prove a passing fad, nice for nerds, and useful for information, like the share price page of a daily paper, but useless for the rest of us. As for interactive TV, were it pos-

relations, but we may not want to read

sible to deliver a really interactive service, like phone-in radio, the attractions would be enormous. But pretend interactive TV, where you talk to a preteasing instead of satisfying.
So giving every child in the land

access to a computer and linking it to a broad-band communications network may simply mean that our children spend more time playing games rather than learning about environmental economics or classical civilisation. If that subsequently means we push our share of the world video games software market up to 60 per cent, then that is a bonus. Indeed, teaching people that trade in services is just as good a way of earning our liv-ing as metal-bashing is admirable. But it may not be what Mr Blair and his colleagues have in mind.

Nor do they fully appreciate what a world of high-capacity, virtually free communications could mean for their own trade. A world where skilled people can live anywhere and deliver their services on screen is one where national politicians are less and less powerful. If they do not perform to best international standards, the good people, plus their PCs, will walk.

BOOK REVIEW

Dolitics is a dirty business and Tony Blair is a clean man. What will happen now that they are put together in the wash of the next general election? And what will happen after that, when a Labour goverament has to follow the mire and grime of a post-Tory world?

cannot yet know, but John Rentoul makes a brave attempt to answer through a biography in a hurry. His is, I think, a highly competent try, made impressive more by wit and insight rather than by what Ben Pimlott suggests on the dust cover was "thorough research". It is a distinctively modern in-sight, with television and radio interviews as the main sources, not academic analyses or family records.

Hence the early chapters on

family and school origins are sketchy by comparison with the treatment of recent parliamentary and party partisanship, leading to dramatic discussion of destinations which the nation awaits. Will he be another Attlee? Or could he be another Lansbury (a possibility nowhere mentioned)? Or could he lose the election?

One could go in speculative comparison through all Blair's 14 predecessors. Rentoul does not do so, but no doubt some future biographer will. Audit of this kind is best left until Blair is 70, in 2023. The commonplace that pol-

ities is dirty has never been made more public than by the contemporary media. So far as I can judge, the Thatcher clique have corrupted Westminster

Through the eye of Tony's needle

Tony Blair by John Rentoul Little Brown, £16.95

and Whitehall to a degree unknown since the Napoleonic Wars. But the Labour Party is not much better, and Rentoul's account of Peter Mandelson and the apparatchiks is menacing, even chilling. I am not myself privy to any of this. It only serves to emphasise the itical courage. Kinnock told torments of Blair as he seeks to me, before John Smith died,

thread his way through the eye of the needle.

What is most striking about this side of Rentoul's story is that the path was mostly cleared by Neil Kinnock, ironically an unbeliever, but possessed of immense moral and pol-

that Blair, above all other colleagues, was the most loyal, the most honest and the most prescient in advice to the leader. So what will happen? I can-

not believe Blair will be corrupted by "right-wing" betrayals (despite the siren voices of the electoral middle-ground and the fashionable media, and despite the natural temptation to do one's best for one's own children). Nor will the party be purified (though Kinnock cer-tainly played Hercules in the Augean stables). Nor do I think we shall hear too much about Christian socialism. A successful party must command at least 30 per cent of the electorate and it will have to be persuaded by ethical socialism. Britain is probably ready to accept this broader appeal,

goaded into outrage by political and monetary malpractice. Gordon Brown is a conceivable puritanical chancellor, Frank Field could manage a radical new social security system.

I do not know Blair at all well, but we met at dinner recently and discussed the question of who is the second most interesting character in the New Testament. He thought Pontius Pilate. I dismissed his opinion as short-term and political, and suggested that the Good Samaritan (minority group and direct action) would make or break the politics of the 21st century. He promised not to be Pilate, I hope he will find ways of getting the state to make more of its citizens into Samaritans.

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Source: Datastream

IN BRIEF

M&A deals set for new record

The value of UK mergers and acquisitions this year is set to bust the previous 1989 record of £47.2bn because of merger mania in the electricity industry. According to the magazine Acquisitions Monthly M&A deals during the first nine months of to-talled £40.3bn, soaring past the £13.7bn for the same period last year, and £25.3bn for the whole of 1994. The value of remaining deals in the electricity sector totals £10bn, the magazine says.

National Power's £2.8bn bid for Southern Electric and Texas Energy Partners' increased bid for Norweb of £1.74 are just two examples. In contrast the number of deals stayed static at 50 for the first nine months. Lazards topped the table for deals by value at £10.7hn. follwed by Barings, Morgan Stanley, Robert Fleming and NM Rothschild. SG Warburg topped the table last year but managed only 6 bids worth £2.9bn this time.

'Scotsman' price discouraged bidder

Bill Hughes, chairman of the industrial holding company, Grampian Holdings, and one of the early front-runners to make a bid for the Edinburgh-based Scotsman newspaper group, hinted yesterday that his consortium dropped out of the bidding because it felt the asking price was unrealistic.

Scotsman said yesterday that they hoped a deal might be completed by early next month. A number of interested bidders, believed to include Associated Newspapers and the Barclay brothers, owners of The European, are examining the Scotsman's books.

Blair's partnership pledge welcomed

Business leaders welcomed Tony Blair's commitment to new partnerships between a Labour government and industry, following the deal he announced with BT on wiring up schools, hospitals and libraries.

Suspicions linger, page 24

Grampian profits up 19%

Grampian Holdings the Glasgow-based conglomerate pleased the market with a 19 per cent improvement in profits to £4.29m in the six months to 30 June, and the third quarter remains strong in contrast to last year, according to its chairman, Bill Hughes. The contribution from pharmaceuticals fell to £2.6m, but the transport division has been growing strongly to £2.2m. Investment column, page 25

Watchdog warning on loss of choice

Offer, the electricity watchdog, warned that National Power's proposed takeover of Southern Electric could reduce diversity and choice for customers, and produce a "greater degree of ver-tical integration" in the privatised electricity industry than has been the case. In a consultation document, the watchdog said it would need to consider whether restraints on the enlarged group and licence amendments would be effective in dealing with potential adverse effects on customers and competition.

Candover backs buyout

Candover said it was backing an £11.5m management buyout of OBS from the British Rail Vendor Unit. Candover Investments had provided £1.5m and the Candover 1994 Fund £5.5m, with the remaining equity being provided by the management. The management team was led by the managing director, Terry Coyle, and directors who had worked within British Rail. John Jarvis would be non-executive chairman of OBS Services.

RPR set to increase offer for Fisons

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

Rhone Poulenc Rorer was last night putting the finishing touches to a revised and final offer for Fisons. Market sources said a bid of at least 260p a share, valuing the group at more than £1.8bn, would emerge today. Fisons yesterday confirmed its rejection of the existing 240p offer launched in August.

A recommendation from the Fisons board was hanging in the balance after the British drugs group issued a statement challenging RPR to pay a price that "fully reflects the exceptional strategic value of Fisons' prod-ucts, delivery technology and sales and marketing capability". In the absence of an agreement, RPR is expected to launch a dawn raid to pick up shares in the market.

Last night Stuart Wallis, Fisons' chief executive, said RPR had made no effort to negotiate an agreed offer since its original offer was rejected. He said Fisons had "a confident and certain future as an independent company" but admitted that the obstacle to an RPR takeover

was simply one of price.

RPR has until tomorrow to revise its bid. Thereafter its offer cannot be changed unless a third party enters the bid. It is thought unlikely that Fisons

has a white knight up its sleeve. Yesterday, the British drugs group issued a final list of questions it said RPR should answer. They cast doubt on the ability of RPR, the American arm of France's Rhone Poulenc chemicals and drugs group, to achieve its goal of becoming a major player in the asthma market without buying Fisons.

Fisons' European sales and marketing operation. Mr Wal-lis highlighted Fisons' cash pile worth 50p a share, which implied an offer of just 190p a share for the core pharmaceuticals operation.

Fisons' shares closed 2p high-er at 259p yesterday. Trading narket without buying Fisons. was relatively light with whispers of today's expected bid only PR's admitted weakness in emerging shortly before the

ceeds in taking over Fisons at 260p, shareholders will have seen their investment more than double since Mr Wallis took over as chief executive in September last year. Having reached a peak of more than 500p they plunged to 108p at the ing of this year after a string of profits warnings and run-ins with the US Food and



Stuart Wallis: Only obstacle to RPR deal is one of price

Barings bosses face SFA grilling

thority is set to interview former

executives of Barings, which

could result in some being

banned from working in the

Regulatory sources said the

SFA is determined to come down hard on those executives

who failed to exercise their re-

sponsibilities in the collapsed

The investigation is believed to cover about 12 former exec-

utives from Peter Baring, the ex-

chairman, and Andrew Tuckey.

the ex-deputy chairman, down-

wards. But the main focus is on

those such as Peter Norris, the

former head of the securities side, and Ron Baker, formerly

in charge of the derivatives op-

erations, who are believed to

have been more directly in-

volved in the running of the

merchant bank.

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor The Securities and Futures Au-

the group almost to its knees. After a series of high level res ignations following the revelation that profits had been inflated, Mr Wallis had to move fast to repair Fisons' ravaged halance sheet and reputation. In a bold series of moves he sold the research and development arm to Astra of Sweden for £200m and the loss-making scientific instruments divisions for the same amount.

Mr Wallis stands to be handsomely rewarded for the remarkable turnaround. Thanks to the speed with which he patched up Fisons' finances, raising more than analysts ever expected, the company's share price has risen sharply over the past year, taking the value of share options awarded on his appointment to well over £1m. Coupled with compensation for the loss of his £315,000 a year salary, Mr Wallis could walk away from his year at Fisons with almost £2m.

The bid for Fisons is the latest in a string of takeovers in the pharmaceuticals sector over the past two years during which fast increasing pricing pres-sures and the soaring costs of developing drugs has forced a consolidation of the industry

The Bank of England report into the collapse of Barings under losses of £860m, put the blame firmly on Nick Leeson's unauthorised derivatives speculation in Singapore as well as the seriously inadequate internal management controls. The SFA's task is now to put the personalities to the management breakdown, detailing precisely who was responsible, or should have been responsible, for spe-

cific actions and operations. The executives had to return to the SFA by Tuesday night, a questionnaire, tailored to each individual, which sought to establish precisely what the lines of responsibility and reporting were, or were meant to be, at

the old Barings.
The Bank of England report lysts predicted he may hold on has been accused by the US regolation of US law because of the painted a picture of great contwo month delay between the fusion, with several senior executives claiming they thought each other was looking after bank being alerted to the fraud. particular areas of trading and control. On the basis of the structures revealed in the replies, the SFA is soon to begin talking to the former executives. Of all of them, only Andrew Tuckey is believed still to be working, under some informal arrangement with Barings' corporate finance. All had their registration with the SFA, essential for working in the sefound to have made a fortune | curities industry in the City, taken away when they were dismissed by ING, the new Dutch owner of Barings. If they re-apply for registration. the SFA has to be convinced they are fit and proper people to work in the securities busi-

Eurotunnel debts may go for equity

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Eurotunnel's bankers are considering converting up to £1bn of debt into equity as a partial solution to the Channel tunnel operator's financial crisis.

The company's 630,000 shareholders have long feared a debt swap, which would dilute the already diminishing value of their investment. Last month Eurotunnel sus-

pended interest payments of £2m a day on junior debt for up to 18 months, a move that took many of the company's 225 banks by surprise.

Now there is a suggestion that the accrued interest of £1.09bn be swapped for equity as a prelude to a more substantial refinancing. "The banks would like an interim solution to stabilise the situation," said a source. "Dealing with the interest first will buy time to or-

ganise a full refinancing later." Two weeks ago, the Indepen-dent learned that the four agent hanks had written to the banking syndicate telling it of the need for shareholders to take more of the pain caused by Eu-

rotunnel's crisis. The clear implication was that the shareholders' investment would have to be diluted, perhaps by a debt for equity swap that could wipe out the val-ue of the shares which are held mainly by French investors. A Eurotunnel shareholders'

action group, based in Paris, recently claimed that about £14bn had been wiped off the value of their holding since the compa-ny went public. Several analysts believe a

debt for equity swap of up to £3bn is necessary. Gary Klesch, the debt trader, said recently that such a move would be needed by early 1998.

A spokesman for the agent banks - the UK's National Westminster and Midland, Credit Lyonnais and BNP in

France - would not confirm the interest payment debt swap. "We have not fully dismissed any solution or way forward. But nothing has been agreed," he

The urgent need to resolve the company's financing was underlined yesterday when the giant US investment group, Capital, again cut its stake in Eurotunnel to 6.38 per cent. At the end of September Capital reduced its holding to 7.11 per

Meanwhile, figures out yesterday showed that the number of tourists taking cars through the Channel tunnel last month fell compared with the busy holiday month of August, but freight traffic has increased.

Cars travelling on the Folkestone-Calais Le Shuttle trains totalled 105,914 in September 1995 - a fall of nearly 40,000 on the 145,861 figure for August. But coaches using the shut-tles rose from 2,728 in August to 3.033 last month, while the number of Le Shuttle freight lorries increased from 36,517 in

August to 38,136 last month, reported Eurotunnel. The company also said that the number of through freight trains travelling through the tunnel increased from 425 in

August to 515 in September.
There was also an increase in the number of Eurostar trains which operate from London's Waterloo station through the tunnel to Paris and Brussels. With frequencies increasing on 24 September, Eurostar ran a total of 862 trains in September,

At rival P&O, freight truck crossings rose to 55,604 from 46,116, while its equivalent tourist vehicle figure slipped to 136,202 from 185,950. Richard Hannah, analyst at UBS, said Eurotunnel's figures were "more or less in line with the market, which is a bit disap-pointing for Eurotunnel really".

Finance minister calls for Daiwa resignation

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Daiwa Bank is considering a sharp cut in its overseas operations, especially in the US, following last week's disclosure of a \$1.1bn bond trading fraud in its New York branch, according to bank sources. Masayoshi Takemura, the fi-

nance minister, yesterday made it clear he expects the resignation of Akira Fujita, Daiwa's president, as a gesture of atonement for the humiliation to Japan's tenth biggest bank

The management must take proper responsibility," Mr Takemura announced, using the traditional formula used to imply resignation. Mr Fujita, who last week said he would be cutting his own pay by 30 per cent, had insisted he would remain in charge "for the time being, until the issue is resolved". Ana-

until after the publication of reports on the case, in order to take with him as much of the burden of responsibility as possible for the failure to spot the unauthorised bond trading carried out by the chief bond trader in New York, Toshihide Iguchi, over 11 years.

Mr Takemura's statement came as the ministry of finance prepared its own inspection of the bank. Ministry inspectors will today visit Daiwa's head office in Osaka, three days after a similar investigation was announced by the US regulators in New York. The Bank of Japan will also carry out an investigation, and ministry officials are expected to fly out to New York in the next few days. Asahi Shimbun reported that a second, unnamed Japanese in New York

The latest moves suggest the scale of the embarrassment caused to the Japanese establishment. The Daiwa affair comes at a particularly bad time for the finance ministry, which is struggling with the bad debt crisis in the Japanese banks. The ministry suffered a scandal of its own last month after a former senior official was through questionable invest-

ulatory authorities of possible vi-

and the authorities being noti-

ments. Mr Iguchi's activities escaped the notice of two ministry inspections, as well as reviews by the US Federal Reserve. "I regret that the ministry was not capable of spotting the affair," Mr Takemura said. was being investigated for a possible part in the fraud. The Bank

Derivatives feud spills into print

DAVID USBORNE NEW YORK

A \$196m lawsuit launched by Procter & Gamble against the Bankers Trust of New York will spill on to American newsstands tomorrow when the US magazine Business Week goes into print with details of the long-running feud contained in documents that it had previously been barred by a court or-

der from publishing.

The magazine had been unable to publish the documents relating to the lawsuit, obtained several weeks ago, because they had been put under seal by a Detroit court. They were unsealed on Tuesday, prompting the magazine to arrange blitz coverage in tomorrow's issue. The battle already promises

to severely dent the image of Bankers Trust. It is accused by Procter & Gamble of misleading it on the risks involved

when it sold derivatives to the company, which eventually led to losses of \$102m.

The documents obtained by Business Week include transcripts of telephone conversations between employees of Bankers Trust. One apparently records one employee asking another how they manage to persuade clients to invest in the notoriously tricky derivatives

Other details expected to emerge are the names of eight other companies burt by derivatives purchased from Bankers Trust. They are thought to include Sandoz AG, Sequa Cor-poration and the Irish-based Jefferson Smurfit.

If its suit succeeds, Procter & Gamble could receive treble damages from Bankers Trust. Some observers speculated that the bank may move first, however, to settle out of court with the personal care giant.

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COMPANY

Nobody does it Better

'Sids' hold key to Manweb bid

MARY FAGAN

Industrial Correspondent Tomorrow is the final day in the

battle for control of Chesterbased Manweb by Scottish Power, and the balance of power could well lie with the thousands of private investors who control about 25 per cent of the regional

This is the first hostile bid for a major UK utility to reach such a crucial stage and the first in which there is real power in the hands of "Sid".

To woo them, Scottish Pow-

er has taken prime-time tele-vision advertising, including

slots during Coronation Street,

Blind Date, the Gladiators and The Bill.

An army of 200 people at the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh has been primed to count an anticipated last-minute surge of acceptances on tomorrow's close of the £9.90 offer by the Scottish group.

While the hope is that all small shareholders will succumb to the £1.1bn deal, privately it is admitted that a lastminute stampede could prove

a logistical nightmare. Scottish Power has become increasingly concerned to win over Manweb's 110,000 private investors, who control 25 per us." The Scottish camp argues on London, which would have

The average holding is about 300 shares, which at the cash offer price are worth almost £3,000.

So far, about 15,000 individuals are thought to have taken up the offer. But Manweb is confident that the bulk of its small investors, many of whom also live in its Merseyside and North Wales territory, will stay on board.

John Roberts, Manweb's chief executive, said: "Many of these are valued customers and have a strong sense of loyalty to both the company and the region. We believe they will back earlier in the week had centred

electricity industry - that the regional issue is overstated. Scottish Power tightened its

grip on the distribution and supply company yesterday, buying more than 5 million shares and taking its stake to 26.2 per Manweb's shares fell by 1p to

991p and Scottish Power's rose by 2p to 350.5p. The bid moved towards its

close as takeover fever continued to grip the City, with speculation that Electricity, worth about £1.7bn, will be the next to fall. Rumours cent of the company's equity. - as do most predators in the a price tag nearer to f2bn.

business



tment Column

Market Report

SERVICE PRINTERS

"Building bridges with the Opposition is always going to be

dangerous for a highly regulated monopoly - but Sir Iain

Vallance has nothing to lose"

No doubt who wins in Labour's deal with BT First Rupert Murdoch, now Sir Iain Vallance of British Telecom. Sucking up to Tony Blair seems to be quite the thing among Inscent cable TV industry will still be insufined in other words. Think what we could do if we actually had power. Pure politics, in other words. Ministers are furious. For

businessmen with entrenched monopoly positions in fashionable industries - media and communications. Judging by the deal BT has managed to extract from new Labour, it pays dividends. In return for what in truth adds up to little more than a hill of beans,

BT has won a very considerable regulatory concession - albeit from a party not yet in power. There is little doubt who has the better half of the deal. First the concession. For years BT has been lobbying the Government for permission to provide broadcast TV down its tele-

phone lines. Despite some sympathy for BT's position, ministers have resisted this on the grounds that to lift the ban early would be a breach of its agreement with cable TV which has been investing billions in advanced fibre optic networks on the understanding that it had a free field at least until 2002 and possibly longer. What Labour appears to have pledged is that the ban will be progressively phased out from 1997 onwards ending absolutely in all areas in

Though the stock market seemed to be taking a remarkably sanguine view of it yesterday - cable TV share prices barely moved - this is a breakthrough of considerable commercial importance to BT. Barely more than ficiently developed to pose a serious threat. It will be BT, not cable, that strikes the deals with Mr Murdoch and the other entertainment providers.

very much seems to be the answer. BT is unsurprisingly evasive when it comes to estimating the investment cost of its pledge to provide a broadband communications system to all public institutions in the country but the £15bn figure that Labour has cleyerly managed to palm off on the press has nothing to do with what has actually been promised. £15bn represents the maximum cost of delivering a spanking new fibre optic network to every telephone user in the UK. BT is a long way from committing to that. The much more limited "free" network being promised to schools, colleges, libraries and hospitals, would cost no more than £60m, according to industry estimates - an investment which BT might have been expected to make anyway since many of these institutions are high volume tele-

phone users.

This deal is no one way street, however. For Labour it provides a rallying cry that puts the party in the vanguard of all that mumbo jumbo about information superhighways (shades of the white heat of technological two years from now, it should, Labour victory allowing, be able to compete on an is able to say, that we in Opposition can do it now is. There is plainly much wrong with blocking its banking licence. It now saw a stressing it has nothing to now, it should, Labour victory allowing, be able to compete on an is able to say, that we in Opposition can do it now is. There is plainly much wrong with way of laying its hands on the business of a lithis particular deal.

some, BT's flirtation with Labour is treachery. BT is the showpiece of the Government's privatisation programme. Without Mrs Thatcher, Sir lain might well still be a What does it have to do in return? Not subpostmaster. Sir lain shrugs his shoulders. Building bridges with the Opposition helping it win votes - is always going to be dangerous for a highly regulated monopoly but the way he sees it, ministers have

> He has nothing to lose. As for Labour, that is a different matter. Certainly the deal with BT points to some basic confusions in its policy towards business. Among the privatised utilities, BT seems to enjoy favoured status with Labour. There are all kinds of reasons for this; BT is at the forefront of technology, which is where Labour wants to be, internationally it is highly respected and its standing among customers is considerably higher than more

already punished him as much as they can.

But it is also distinguished because it is seen to operate in a competitive environment. Mr Blair himself has made that distinction. It was not that many years ago, how-ever, that BT was being written about in much the same way as the electricity companies now are - as one of the most hated institutions in the land. It was regulation and

recent privatisations.

Cavalier behaviour of Deutsche Bank

ittle wonder that the Germans had to look beyond their borders to acquire investment banking nouse. For judging by the antics of the past few days inside fortress Germany, they have much to learn. The country's biggest ever hostile takeover, for the state-owned Postbank, may be bringing a smile to the face of Deutsche Bank, but it has been met with open-mouthed disbelief among the international investment bank-

ing fraternity.

To recap. Postbank was only recently split from the post office, as was Telekom to prepare for privatisation. However, the politicians appear not to have thought through the business implications. For the post office soon found it could not sustain its vast branch network without the revenues provided by the Postbank. The choice was between large-scale closures and political uproar - the public sector union in Germany

is powerful - and nabbing back the bank.

Deutsche Bank, too, had its agenda. It had tried to strangle the Postbank at birth by

NIC CICUTTI

The head of Britain's most se-

nior financial watchdog yester-

heavy-handed regulation in re-turn for greater information dis-

closure by companies.

Andrew Large, chairman of

round of talks with the indus-

try's more junior watchdogs to

He also backed moves to

Mr Large argued that if more

the present market-driven approach to development of the superhighway – but giving even an inch back to BT may not be the les, the government stitched together a sweetheart deal in which the post office is going for 40 per cent of Postbank, Deutsche for 20 per cent, Swiss Reinsurance (as hon-orary Germans) taking 15 per cent, and the state holding on, as it has to by law until 1998, to its 25 per cent.

In their haste, however, the bidders have offered a sum of just over DM3bn for the 75 per cent. Salomon Brothers last year valued Postbank at DM6bn, and Lehman Brothers, the advisers, think it is now worth even more. Unsurprisingly, Postbank is protesting violently, and calling Deutsche a disgrace to banking.

While Britain is engrossed in raging discussions about how, with years of hindsight, taxpayers were sold short in undervalued privatisations, Germans are pulling off the trick of diddling their taxpayers out of DM2-3bn well before the privatisation occurs. This must raise questions about the financial competence of the people in charge, which does nothing to instil confidence in the great

Telekom float next year.
But what about Deutsche Bank, and the breathtaking gap between what it says it wants to do in international markets, and this cavalier, provincial behaviour at home? For an answer one only has to ask Morgen Grenfell. Through the splutters, there is much stressing it has nothing whatsoever to do with

SIB prepares to

simplify rules

IMF warns of renewed turmoil in financial markets. Diane Coyle reports from Washington

Britain 'must not slip' on deficit cut

The International Monetary Fund has downgraded its forecasts for growth in Britain and the other industrial countries this year and next. It also issued a sharp warning yesterday of the risk of more turbulence in the financial markets unless governments improve their economic policies.

Britain is one of the countries it says must not slip on plans to cut the government deficit. "We do not believe the fiscal position in Britain allows room for net Pessimism on Japan growth

confirmed that the growth

would be a meagre 0.5 per

startling downgrade in the

country's prospects is the yen's

appreciation. It hit a peak of 79.85 against the dollar in April,

hitting exports and sending Japanese manufacturers flock-

ing to expand production in

The IMF estimates that for-

eign currency losses on overseas

investments of \$400bn between

1980 and the present - most

since 1993 - triggered a vicious

cycle of the repatriation of

cheaper Asian countries.

The main culprit for this

cent, the same as last year.



World Bank

the possibility that base rates might need to rise again. Although agreeing that the economic slowdown had removed the urgency, he said: "It is too early to make a judgement that short term interest rates have

Six months ago the Japanese funds and further yen appreci- get package, worth \$150bn. He

ble. In its new forecast for rate that this produced has GDP next year could be an un-

Japan, released yesterday, the been successfully reversed since der-estimate. Even so, it will be

Michael Mussa, IMF eco-

nomic counsellor, said yester-

day: "If anything, the dollar is

a little bit on the weak side but

we would not be saying now that there is a serious misalignment

of the type that existed earlier."

The analysis is likely to in-

crease the determination of G7

finance ministers, meeting on

Saturday, to keep the yen close

the Japanese for relaxing both

monetary and fiscal policy. The

newly published IMF forecast

does not take account of the 20

September supplementary Bud-

Mr Mussa also gave credit to

to its present level.

economy looked as though it ation, which led to further loss-

would show some signs of re- es on foreign assets. The huge

covery this year, however fee- misalignment in the exchange

letary rund

lor. He also refused to rule out this weekend, reckons that most industrial economies will expand more slowly than it en-visaged earlier this year.

The report says that inflation is unlikely to pick up much in the industrial countries generally. But it says: "Barring stronger efforts to reduce fiscal The IMF, setting the scene for the G7 meeting in Washington deficits than currently envisaged, only a few countries ap-

said the predicted recovery

from 0.5 per cent growth in 1995

to a 2.2 per cent expansion in

where growth would be 4 to 8

per cent at the same stage of the

There are two particular chal

lenges identified by the IMF. One is the need to take further

action to close or merge insol-

vent financial institutions, al-

though the Fund has welcomed

the public failure of two credit

unions this year - the first since

1926 - as a healthy sign of re-

alism. The other is the need to

continue to deregulate the

economy. Resources in the

economy are not used as effi-

cycle in less troubled times.

for further monetary easing." It puts Britain firmly in the category of countries needing to improve financial market credibility by holding a firm line financial market on interest rates and deficit re-

The British economy is forecast to expand by 2.7 per cent his year, half a per cent below both the Treasury's forecast and the IMF's own earlier prediction. Just weeks before the 28 November budget, the IMF warns the Chancellor that efforts to cut the Government's borrowing requirement must not slip. It also says that the current pause in growth should not be exaggerated.

The US gets the same caution from the IMF's economists. Only evidence of a marked slowdown in economic activity would warrant significant cuts in interest rates. The key issue for American policymakers, cal deficit. The IMF has revised its forecast of US growth to a slightly lower 2.9 per cent this

year and 2.0 per cent in 1996.

The broadly favourable economic outlook, with reasonable growth and low inflation in most countries, could be in icopardy if governments do not grasp this nettle. These risks derive partly from policy weaknesses in many industrial countries that may provoke renewed turbulence in financial markets," says the report.

It picks out the US, France, ciently as they might be because Italy, Spain and Sweden as countries in urgent need of growth in developing countries



IMF supremo Michel Camdessus: in the spotlight

deficit cuts and in some cases additional labour market reforms. But the IMF argues that the sensitivity of financial markets to inappropriate economic policies - such as excessive budget deficits or lack of credibility in interest rate setting -

is increasing. The report argues that almost all industrial countries need to tackle excess government deficits. The emphasis needs to be on expenditure cuts, especially spending on pensions and healthcare.

The IMF's forecasts for

man out a new, simplified approach to regulation. end the present system, called polarisation, whereby advisers must either sell the products of just one company or be prepared to choose from the industry's entire range. financial information were available, there could be a "disclosure dividend" both for investors and the industry. response from other regulahave been revised up since April. The repercussions of the tors last night. One, who refused Mexico crisis have been sucto be named, said: "I think he

cessfully contained, with only

Argentina seriously affected. Average growth in the Asian de-

veloping countries is likely to ex-ceed more than 8 per cent this

year, for the fourth year in a

row. Private capital flows to the

developing countries have now

returned to a high level, al-

become more selective.

though financial markets have

of their sales activities. It all seems like a recipe for even more navel-gazing. Mr Large, who was speaking at the Britannia Caledonian financial services lecture in Glasgow, said the benefits of

is trying to placate some of the

insurance companies who have

been lobbying for less controls

But his comme

ready apparent in the wholesale markets, including Eurobonds and derivatives. As a result, more overseas firms were choosing to base in the UK.

day signalled a move away from He argued that had more information been available, it might have been possible to forestall recent financial scandals, including the Barings mer-chant bank collapse in January. the Securities and Investments Board, announced a fresh

He claimed that long-running problems in the retail financial sector had also been caused by companies' unwillingness to disclose information about their products. "When, sadly, investors were let down by advisers they were entitled to trust there was little prospect they would themselves spot something was amiss. I need hardly tell you what sort of problems the industry faces as a result.

"Some might accuse me in raising these points again of being too far ahead at a time when addressed. For example, can we realistically alter the regime whilst the pension-transfer issues have yet to be addressed? I acknowledge that is a difficulty. But, we need to start thinking about the future."

Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, the investment managers' watchdog, said: "Discloure is ... important but its capacity to be the universal panacea, particularly at the retail end, must be in doubt."

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in other words, if you already have a mortgage and fall ill or are made redundant, you'll receive nothing for the first two months, and then only 50%

Even worse than that, if you took out your mortgage after the 1st October 1995, you won't receive a single penny in support for the first nine months

The problem is most home owners think this doesn't concern them. They accidents come out-of-the-blue. And General Accident of them think they've got mortgage protection - when in reality only about 20% of them have.

sessions a week. And the sad thing is that most are

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Maxwell cash crisis 'worse than expected'

JOHN WILLCOCK

Kevin Maxwell was told: "No sacred cows" and "cash is now the name of the game" when he called in an accountant to help him deal with the crisis he faced a few days after his fa-ther's death, the Old Bailey fraud trial heard yesterday.
Richard Stone, head of corporate finance at Coopers & Ly-

brand, said that those were two of the rules he applied when he began working for Kevin Maxwell on 11 November 1991. Mr Stone said on Day 74 of the trial that he quickly found that the cash situation was worse than he first feared. He warned Kevin Maxwell that he was not prepared to embark on the exercise unless he had the right to

report everything to the banks which were worried about their On 25 November 1991, Mr Stone made a presentation to about 200 bankers who attended a meeting at the Chartered Insurance Hall in the City of London and disclosed that the "private side" of the Maxwell

group had bank debts of £887m. The banks agreed a "well organised standstill" was the best prospect for them and for the survival of the Maxwell empire. Five days later Mr Stone learned for the first time that the pension funds were in deficit by an estimated £380m.

Mr Alun Jones QC, defending Kevin Maxwell, said that had Mr Stone checked with Mr Steve Wootten, one of his firm's audit partners, he would have known that Mr Wootten had been looking into the pension sion funds by misuse of investfund situation for about two



Day 74

weeks on the instructions of Kevin Maxwell. Mr Stone said he had not

sought information from Coopers & Lybrand's audit part-Maxwell group companies' accounts, because he wanted an independent view of the situation in making his report to the banks on Kevin Maxwell's instructions. By 3 December 1991, when

another meeting with the bankers took place, the creditors faced a totally different position because of the "vast" inter- company borrowings which had been revealed, said Mr Stone.

He said it was about this time that he was told by Kevin Maxwell of a possible "white knight" equity investor on 30 November or 1 December 1991. The investor was prepared to inject £400m into the group, Kevin Maxwell told him.

The banks issued a deadline for the end of the week which was not met, the court heard. Kevin and Ian Maxwell, together with ex-Maxwell aide, Larry Trachtenberg, all deny

conspiracy to defraud the pen-

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

financial disclosure were al-



Bank of Scotland 1995 Interim Results

| | 6 months ended 31 August 1995 (unaudited) | 6 months ended 31 August 1994 (unaud#ed) | Year ended 28 February 1995 |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE PROVISIONS | £339.6m | £321.4m | £650.0m |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION | £261.6m | £213.2m | £449.7m |
| TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES | £3,105m | £2,534m | £2,731m |
| TOTAL ASSETS | £36,837m | £31,951m | £34,104m |
| EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT | 12.6p | 10.9p | 22.3p |
| DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT | 2.45p | 2.13p | 5.82p |

- Pre-tax profit £261.6 million up 23 per cent
- Net dividend increased by 15.0 per cent
- o Tier 1 and Total Capital Ratios are 6.6 per cent and 12.0 per cent respectively (February 1995 -6.1 per cent and 11.4 per cent respectively)



For a copy of the Bank's Interim Report please contact: Marketing Services and Public Relations Department, Bank of Scotland, Uberior House, PO Box 12, 61 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 21F.

Much Labour industrial policy could fit into Michael Heseltine's White Paper – but suspicions still remain, writes Peter Rodgers

Rail rhetoric overshadows new Labour partnerships

at once in its relationship with give a straight answer. business. Tony Blair made what at first sight appeared to be a promise to renationalise the railways and in almost the same breath announced a deal with BT that was billed as a new initiative in public and private sector partnership.

The former sounded like a return to the old Labour ways, and was made under pressure from unions; the latter was a classic piece of modern Blairism, discarding anti-business rhetoric to do a deal with a private complace among the Conservatives.

In fact neither announcement was quite as dramatic a departure as it appeared. Labour spokesmen have spent much of the last year ducking direct questions about whether they would buy back Railtrack worth at least £2.5bn - after the

The Labour Party appeared this week to be facing two ways Blair's speech, they have still to passengers, the most visible credit for the ideas that form the passengers, the most visible basis of Kenneth Clarke's ori-

Mr Blair's statement that "there will be a publicly owned and publicly accountable railway system under a Labour gov-ernment" was qualified by a promise not to write blank cheques, which in itself left considerable doubt over whether Labour would attempt to buy it back in its first term of

Given the scale of spending that would be involved, the remark was more likely to have been aimed at wrecking the sale, pany that would not be out of to ensure the problem would not arise in the first place, which has been a consistent tactic of Labour's front bench. City advisers believe it could just as easily result in Railtrack going for a knock down price. And what exactly does Mr

Blair mean by a railway system? Railtrack owns the rails, but

part of the railways will be the train operating companies, which are in the process of being franchised out to the private

Since those franchises are

generally of seven years, a Labour government thinking in terms of two full terms could renationalise the system without cost by simply allowing the franchises to expire. In any case, half the franchises may still be in the public sector by the election. In contrast, the rolling stock leasing companies - the roscos - may be sold by Christmas, for up to £1.8bn. New Labour would be unlikely to want to take them back into public ownership. The Roscos fit nicely with another strand of Labour thinking, which is to develop financial partnerships with the private sector.

After all, Labour has claimed

vate finance initiative. Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, has been fiercely critical of the PFL not because of the principle but because the Treasury has strangled it in red tape and failed to fulfill the original purpose which was to introduce private finance as an addition to government spending rather than a replacement. Indeed, Mr Brown has floated the idea of beefing up the PFI by offering nt insurance against some of the potential risks,

Against that background, industrialists following Labour thinking over the last year will find little to astonish them in the deal with BT announced by Tony Blair. It is the Tory government that has just extracted £300m towards the cost of the Jubilee Line from the new owners of London's Canary Wharf.

such as changes in regulation.



Tony Blair's 'partnership' approach to business is characterised by next week's planned

Mr Blair's plan is to free BT to sell entertainment down its wires in return for investing in communications links to hospitals, schools, colleges and libraries. With the cost to BT likely to be modest, Mr Blair

may end up being criticised for state-owned small business giving away rather a lot for the bank. A surprising amount of

Partnerships with industry have become the key theme of

what is left of Labour industrial policy could fit easily into Michael Heseltine's competitiveness white papers. Employers dislike the mini-Labour's policy, as it finally buries direct intervention. Gone

mum wage intensely and are

fiercely critical of windfall tax-es on the utilities – though the sting has been drawn from that by the way Tory backbenchers have promoted the idea as well. The CBI's opposition to Labour's promises to abandon the opt out from the European social chapter are based not so much on the setting up of works councils but on what Adair Turner, the CBI director gen-eral, calls the "blank cheque" the chapter gives for future regulation of the labour market.

As for Labour's wide-ranging plans to reform utility regula-tion and introduce a new competition authority, little of this is radical in the sense of being outside the debate among experts about how to manage such things. And at the macroeconomic level, business has been been reassured by Mr Blair's commitment to continuing with a tough inflation tar-

As Mr Adair said recently. nobody is disputing the value to business of the basic shift in Labour policy. The real issue for some business people remains a suspicion about whether Mr Blair can deliver it in power - a suspicion which the return to rhetoric about renationalisation could reinforce.

Scholl puts case against shake-up Mr Treger and Mr Myerson, and Claudia Perkins of J O DAVID HELLIER

Scholl, the footwear group be-sieged by corporate agitators Ju-lian Treger and Brian Myerson, yesterday accused dissident shareholders of secrecy and short-termism as they implored them to vote against resolutions favouring a board shake-up.
To win over shareholder sup-

port, the company said its pre-tax profits for the first eight months of this year were 20% up on the corresponding peri-od last year and that its business plan was on track.

The new chief executive, Colin Brown, formerly with Reckitt and Colman as group director Europe, said: "I intend to accelerate the improvement in Scholl's performance, concentrating on volume growth, inng margins and reductions in fixed costs. This is the best way to maximise value for

Hambro, the finance house whose clients have built up a stake of more than 10°c, have called a meeting for 24 October at which they intend to appoint themselves in place of three non-executive directors and seek buyers for the business.

Mr Treger believes Scholl would be better off as part of an international group that would benefit from a worldwide marketing and distribution setup. Yesterday he said Scholl's latest riposte did not address the central issue, which was that the company would be better off owned by somebody else.

Scholl said yesterday the proposed appointees have little relevant experience to the company. Nor did it think a forced sale was the way to achieve full value for shareholders.

Scholl's shares moved up 3p to 232p on the announcement.

Lucy Roberts CITY DIARY

Rumours that Tony Blair offered Richard Branson the chance to run a non-profit making version of the lottery have been greatly exaggerat-

Tony Blair has not yet met Richard Branson in a meaningful way, according to a Virgin source. That is unless you include their brief encounter at Gatwick recently when Branson got to show Blair an aeroplane. The visit was part of a tour organised by BAA following a nearby breakfast meeting with business leaders.

The pair will meet at the end of next week, at Blair's request, to have a much more serious discussion on the economy, competition, and business in general.

Meanwhile at Virgin, an indication of how the group intends to run its newly acquired MGM cinemas

have come to light. Simon Burke, now head of Virgin/Our Price, the retailing joint venture between WH Smith and Virgin, is slated to run the new cinemas as well, importing his hands-on retailing experience to transform the chain. Virgin wants restaurants, game arcades and perhaps even Virgin shops at cinema outlets - in short, a redefinition of the movie-going ex-

The plans go to the WH Smith board, on which Burke sits, in the near future. Smith, which owns the majority of Virgin/Our Price. might even consider investing in the cinema chain, if all goes well with Mr Burke at the helm. Smith, characteristically, declined to comment Virgin, somewhat uncharacteristically, declined too.

David Hillyard of the Race-course Holdings Trust tells me he is touting for new business. He wants to lure students to the race track. "No expense is being spared," he tells me, "bar prices will be at or near student union levels." However



Technology Minister lan Taylor: calling on BT

Hillyard denies charges of leading students astray. "Student race days are being organised throughout the autumn and spring term," he says. "We have avoided the summer term, because of ex-

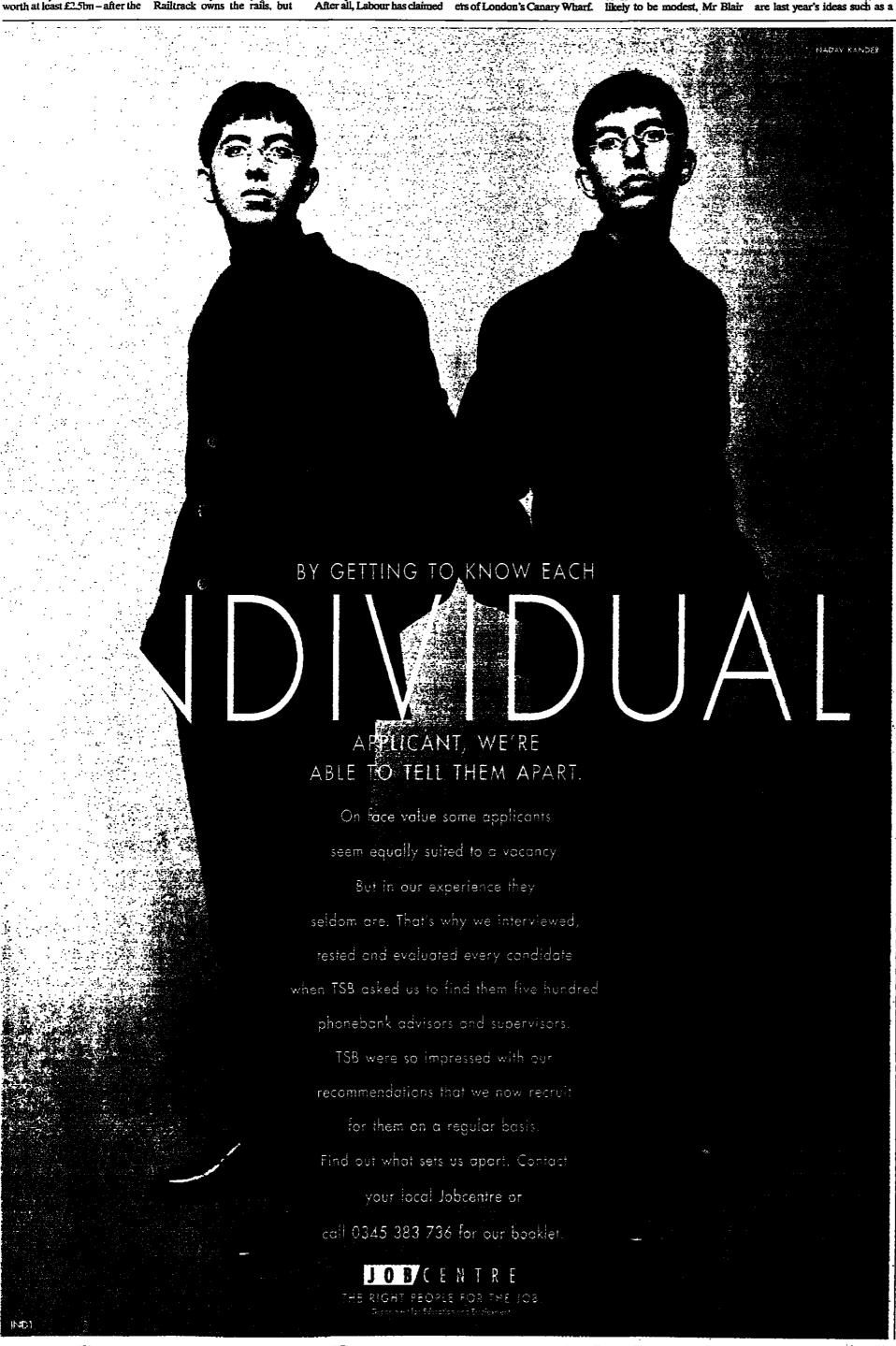
It is a rare investor who doesn't think of stock market crashes when October rolls around. But the historical statistician, David Schwartz, tells me that October is not entirely a dead loss. "The truth is actually different," he says, "October prices rise: m most years."

However, the next-toworst day for trading in the year also falls in the month -on 9 October, to be exact. The problem, says

Schwartz, is that for all the statistics, no-one actually knows why this happens. October is obviously not a bad time for publishing though. Schwartz has just brought out the annual edition of his market handbook.

As Tony Blair announced to the rank and file the deal to allow BT into the cable entertainment market in return for linking schools, col-leges and hospitals to the information superhighway. Science and Technology Minister Ian Taylor was busy elsewhere: touring the BT stand in Geneva at the Telecom 95 conference. Perhaps BT is just hedging its bets.

Cable operators are having trouble deciding who should be Cable operators are having trouble deciding who should be viewing the new Disney Channel being offered as part of the Sky multichannel package. The new service goes to anyone who takes both premium "movie" channels. Sky's satellite customers, whose details are kept in the company's own subscription management system, are easy enough to sort out. But some cable subscribers who take Sky's basic programmes But some came subscribers who take only a mask programmes package – but not the higher-priced films – have been getting Disney since its weekend launch. A cable industry executive admitted the problem, but said operators were busy sorting it out. Until then, imagine the pleasure of the viewers who are getting something free from Rupert Murdoch.



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Peter Rodgers

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Is this jobless strategy too good to be true?

Economists are notorious for warning there is no such thing as a free lunch. But this week. Professor Richard Layard, director of the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance, served up a costed plan that would cut long-term unemployment by 400,000 over the term of a parliament, with an eventual annual saving to the Treasury of over £200m. Is it too good to be true?

The plan is a hard-headed view of the effect of benefits on unemployment. In last year's Jobs Study, the OECD drew attention to the link between generous entitlements and high unemployment. Professor Layard highlights the link be-tween length of entitlements and duration of unemployment.

In particular, he points to the marked divergence between long-term jobless rates in Europe and the US. The US does not have a high incidence of long-term unemployment because benefit is cut off within a year. By contrast about half the jobless in Europe - where ben-efits are available for much longer - have been out of work for a year or more. Despite the moves towards a more flexible labour market in the UK, over a third of the current 2.3million claimants have been without a

job for a year or longer. The benefits safety net turns into a trap because the longer someone is out of work, the less likely he or she is to be able to get a job. Demoralisation sets in and employers are reluctant to take on anyone who has been

unemployed for long. The solution is a mix of carrot and stick that strikes a balance between the harsh American and pampered European approaches. The Government would guarantee a job for six months to anyone who has been on benefit for 12 months. In return that person would have to accept a reasonable offer of work. The benefits currently made to the long-term unemployed – £65 a week including housing subsidy - would be paid to employers as an incentive to hire them.



ECONOMIC VIEW PAUL WALLACE

gests Professor Layard, would be to raise the employability of those currently languishing as long-term unemployed. When the temporary job ended, he or she should stand a better chance of continuing in that job or being re-employed else-where. The resulting decline in

would, in turn, bring savings to the Exchequer. And this decline would not worsen the trade-off between unemployment and inflation because the long-term jobless exerts very little down-

It makes sense to subsidise work, not inactivity

ward pressure on inflation. The first objection to the plan is that it would create a favoured category that would displace others already in work. The subsidy would lead employers to substitute the formerly long-term unemployed for those already in work.

Professor Layard argues that this concern amounts to the "lump of labour" fallacy, the idea that there is a fixed amount of work that has to be shared out. The effect of his plan would be to expand the employable labour force; employment would increase in tandem.

However, in this year's Em-

ployment Report, the OECD said: "It is widely agreed that hiring subsidies for private-sector jobs will generate substantial displacement and substitution effects on employment." If this is the case, then the idea that the plan could be achieved cost-free seems fanciful; the Treasury would foot the bill for employers taking on

The effect of the scheme, sug- the new subsidised employees.

Additional costs would also arise if in-work benefits had to be paid to employees - particularly in no-earner households - to make the job offers spring the poverty trap.

Another question-mark concerns the causes of long-term unemployment. It is not clear long-term unemployment that employers discriminate against the long-term jobless imply because of their lack of recent work experience. According to the OECD, unskilled workers who lose their jobs are much more likely to drift into the ranks of the long-term unemployed. Again, further costs seem inevitable in combining the job offers with retraining if the present group of long-term unemployed is not simply to shuffle between temporary jobs every 18 months.

There must also be a doubt about who, in practice, would make the job offers. If privatesector employers did not make a sufficient number of offers maybe because of lack of skills on the part long-term jobless the public sector would have to become the employer of last resort. The scheme would come to be seen as providing makework as well as running counter to attempts to promote efficiency in government.

Yet despite these shortcomings, the general approach set out by Professor Layard is surely to be welcomed. It must make sense to subsidise work rather than inactivity. We cannot afford - socially more than economically - to exclude almost a million people from the labour market. The employment gains may be less than he suggests and the financial costs greater; but the social benefits argue in favour of boldness rather than timidity. Preventing Long-term Unem-ployment; Employment Policy

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Hewden catches builders' cold

It really is a measure of the cold the construction industry has caught since the spring when Hewden-Stuart, its leading plant hirer and one of the sector's best run companies, starts sneezing. Yesterday's warning that the problems afflicting its customers had finally caught up with the company can hardly have come as a surprise to the City, but the dawning of reality knocked up off its shares, which closed

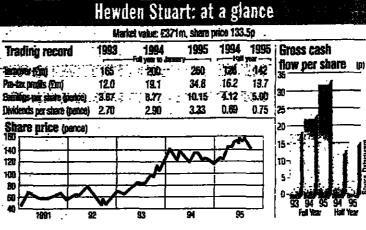
Not that Hewden's interim figures were poor - far from it, a 22 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £19.7m in the six months to July was an impressive performance against a backdrop of sagging demand and weakening prices. Earnings per share jumped 21 per cent to 5p, allowing the 49th successive dividend increase since flotation in 1968 - it rose 9 per cent

Achieving that in the circumstances is further testimony, if any were needed, of the quality of its management and the wisdom of ploughing on with a heavy investment programme throughout the recession when others, and logic, dictated a reining in of expenditure. Hewden has spent more than £200m over the past three years so it can be excused a planned easing off in the second half. The result of that continued programme has been increased market share and, more importantly, the most modern, highly

specified fleet in the business. That said, chairman Sandy Findlay was as candid as ever yesterday about prospects for the rest of the year, suggesting only that full year profits will be ahead of last year's. Following a rise in first half profits of a fifth, the implication of a very poor second half is clear and justifies the recent retreat of the shares from their all time high of

One of the reasons the City has kept faith with Hewden, long after abandoning hope with its peers, is that even when trading is tough its cash flow has been strong. During the half, it rose to £42.6m, 15.4p a share and well up

Assuming trading continues poor though the second half, and profits only match last year's £34.8m, the shares now stand on a forward price/earnings multiple of 13. Even after the recent retreat, and with little yield support, that is high enough.



Bank of Scotland causes anxiety

Bank of Scotland disappointed the mar-ket with interims at the bottom of forecasts and the shares closed 7p lower at

Aftention focused on squeezed margins and rising costs. Throw in continuing uncertainty about the bank's recent acquisition of Perth-based BankWest for £437m, and the anxiety

was understandable. There are certainly plenty of reasons to err on the side of caution.

cent rise in pre-tax profits to £261.6m for the half year to August, this against £213.2m last time, but that was largely based on a fall in debt provision to £65.3m from £109.8m. The market had

(Q) - Quarterly (F) - Final (I) - Interim

been expecting profits of up to £280m. Worryingly, operating expenses grew 16 per cent to £343m from £296m. Many of these costs, however, were incurred by the Bank's highly successful finance house operation NWS which

is recruiting heavily. Margins were squeezed, going down from 2.8 per cent in the second half of 1994 to 26 per cent for the first half of 1995.

The Bank has expanded its market share, especially in the mortgage mar-ket, but has been forced to raise much of its funds in the relatively expensive wholesale money markets. That growth Bank of Scotland announced a 23 per in market share led to a 15 per cent improvement in assets from £32bn to

> Another disappointment was provided by the interim dividend, up 15 per cent to 2.45 pence per share -

| - | COMPA | Y RESULTS | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Turnover £ | P/Sax £ | EP\$ | Dividend |
| Austin Reed (I) | 36.3m (34,5m) | 1.4m (1.8m) | 3p (3.9p) | 2p (2p) |
| Bank of Scotland (I) | | 262m (213m) | 12.6p (10.9p) | 2.45p (2.13p) |
| Blenheim (I) | 92.1m (99.7m) | 13.1m (19.2m) | 8.4p (10.4p) | 3.5p (3.5p) |
| Burn Stewart (F) | 50.4m (40.7m) | 3.96m (4.19m) | 4.65p (5.2p) | 5p (5p) |
| Global Group (I) | 54.0m (41.0m) | 0.84m (0.72m) | 0.42p (0.38p) | 0.2p (0.2p) |
| Grampian Holdlags (1) | 70.8m (65.8m) | 4.29m (3.59m) | 4.34p (3.68p) | 1.6p (1.7p) |
| Hewden Stuart (I) | 142m (128m) | 19.7m (16.2m) | 5p (4.12p) | 0.75p (0.69p) |
| Hourting (1) | 566m (559m) | 15.0m (13.5m) | 5.9p (4.6p) | 4p (4p) |
| Neili Clerk (1) | 1.35m (1,61m) | 0.31m (0.12m) | 59p (24p) | 4p (2p) |
| REA Holdings (1) | 48.8m (43.0m) | 0.66m (0.59m) | 3.7p (3.5p) | nii (nii) |
| United Industries (i) | 32.6m (23.6m) | 1.75m (0.56m) | 0.63p (0.36p) | 0.15p (0.1p) |

On the other hand, the payout was covered a healthy four times, more comfortable than Bank of Scotland's peers.

The bank's conservative dividend policy means it will never be much of a yield stock.

The yield stood at 2.4 per cent for

this year, a stingier payout ratio than even its parsimonious rivals. On a price/earnings ratio of 9.4 this year, however, against a sector average of 10, the shares are reasonable value on earnings grounds.

Grampian is back where it belongs

Grampian Holdings sits more easily in the Diversified Industrials category where it has returned after two years masquerading as a pharmaceutical. Fortunately for shareholders, the switch is unlikely to change the company's rating.

Grampian has never been in the business of producing pharmaceuticals for people anyway. All its products are strictly for the animals, including new vaccines for cattle with coughs and diarrhoea, which should start to pay back at last next year after a seven year period which cost between £5m in development costs.

For the time being the performance from pharmaceuticals remains slighty disappointing, thanks to licensing delays and now increased material costs and margin pressures in Australia.

For the next year or two, the star performer will be the transport division which is running a close second to pharnaceuticals in profit contributions his year. Grampian has a useful niche n the disposal of waste from building ites, which should escape the Chancellor's landfill taxes, but the fastest rowth is in specialised warehousing rhere Grampian is set to expand south from its strongholds in Scotland and the north. Its 25 per cent stake in dinburgh Woollen Mills should proride a useful source of capital if the plan o float it goes ahead next year.

The shares rose 5p to 149p yesterlay, but analysts are not rushing to raise heir forecasts which stay around 10.7m for the full year and £11.8m next for an unexciting prospective price/earnings ratio of 13.

to CITY DE

Manweb

Shareholder information update

Manweb's-response to ScottishPower's final offer

To hear your Board's advice call 0800 55 66 22 (English language)

0800 55 66 33 (Weish language)

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FIVE CLASSIC HOLIDAYS FOR WO TO BE WON WITH THE * INDEPENDENT



ODAY we are giving you another token towards the five you need to enter our Classic Holidays competition. All the five holiday prizes we have on offer are for two people, are organised by Cox & Kings and will genuinely provide a holiday of a lifetime.

There are two tours of India on offer, both of which take in the majesty of the Taj Mahal and the glorious pink city of Jaipur. We have a long weekend break to Jordan where a twoday visit to the rose-red city of Petra is the highlight

You could find yourself gazing at elephants and crocodiles in one of the wild-life preserves of Sri Lanka, the beautiful tear-drop island off the Indian coast. Or maybe you will take a tour through the ancient lands of Syria, rugged yet starkly

All our holiday prizes will take you far from the package crowds and back into a time of wonders. But though some of the terrain may be wild, you will enjoy 20th century comfort

Cox and Kings have, over 200 years, perfected the tailormade tour, one that allows for genuine travel and appreciation rather than rush, snap and hurry.

To enter our competition you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the seven we will be publishing in the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token 6. One of your tokens must come from the Independent on Sunday. An entry form plus a final token will be published in tomorrow's Independent.

For further information on Cox & Kings call: 0171 873 5000.

 To enter our Classic Holidays prize draw you. need to collect 5 differently numbered tokens, including one from the Independent on

2 An entry form will be printed on Friday 6 October 1995. The closing date for entries is

23 October 1995. For previously published tokens or an entry form send an SAE to: Independent/Classic Holidays Prize Draw, (Token Request OR Entry Form), PO Box 83, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TL State the tokens you require (only 4 per application). If you need tokens or an engy form, please send secon SAE's. Requests must be received by first post

13 October 1995. Employees and agents of Newspape Publishing pic or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part neither are their relatives nor members of their

5 Winners must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept their names and photographs will be published in the paper. Photocopies of tokens are not acceptable.

7 The five holidays will be allocated at random to the first five entires selected in the prize draw. 8 Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. There is no cash alternative. The Editor's





market report/shares

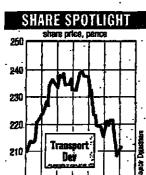
Bid talk and new hopes of rate cut push prices ahead

FT-SE 100 3,544.1+19.9

FT-SE 250 3,983,8+15.2 **FT-SE 350**

1,770.7 +9.2 **SEAQ VOLUME** 754.2m shares. 28,229 bargains Gilts Index

93.44 +0.19



Renewed speculation about take-over bids outside the elecfurther reduction in interest

rates helped share prices push ahead yesterday. The take-over spotlight fell principally on two stocks, Fisons, the pharmaceuticals group, and Clyde Petroleum, the oil and gas exploration company. There was strong specula-tion towards the close of deal-

ings that Rhone Poulenc would today increase its take-over offer for Fisons from 240p a share to between 260p and 270p, valuing the target at more than £1.8bn. Tomorrow is the last opportunity for Rhone to increase its offer

ne dealers believed that e was preparing the d to raid the market for if it failed to secure nent from Fison's board. s shares finished 2p high-

Trading in Clyde Petroleum's shares was heavy, amid tricity sector, and hopes of a rumours of stake-building either by an unidentified American company or Monument Oil & Gas. More than 15.5m Clyde shares went through the books, and the price rose 2.5p to 55.5p. A single buyer picked up 5.1m at 54.5p each in early dealings, and was understood to bought a further 2m later in

> The closing price makes Clyde worth around £227m, far below the £800m it was valued at five years ago when the shares traded at almost 200p each. One trader said there was a strong chance that several other US companies would buy into North Sea assets following the recent agreed deal by Atlantic Richfield to buy Aran Energy. He suggested that a bid for Clyde could be pitched between 70p and 75p a share. Monument, however, is top of the list of favourites



MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

to make a strike for Clyde, mainly because it is awash with cash and in a quandary about the best way to give it back to shareholders without incurring a big tax liability.

British Aerospace, tipped as a target for GEC, gained another 2p to 749p. GEC firmed

lp to 330p. Speculation about takeovers not involving utilities is a welcome relief for the market which, despite making millions out of share trading, has become bored with events. Nonetheless, there was talk yesterday that Yorkshire Electricity, ahead 19p to a year's high of 916p would be the next rec to fall prey to a bid.

Scottish Power continued to

per cent. Manweb eased 1p to 991p, while Scottish firmed 2p to 350.5p. Overall, the market contin-ued to march forward in contrast to Wall Street which fell again overnight and opened softer yesterday. The FT-SE 100 index improved 19.9 points to 3,544.1 and some dealers said that the 3,600 mark could

buy shares in bid target Man-

990p to take its stake to 26.2

be breached soon. Trading volume, helped by a large basket trade by Natwest Securities, totalled 754.2 million shares and was almost equally split between the lead-

LEISURE & HOTELS

which climbed to all-time highs despite some poor results announcements. The FT-SE 250 index closed 15.2 points at a record 3,983.8.

The disappointing results list included Bank of Scotland, down 7p to 240p, Hew-den Stnart, off 9.5p to a year's low of 133.5p. and Austin Reed, 3p lower at 192p. Falls, though, were far out-

numbered by rises which, to some extent, benefited from a day of activity from upgradings by analysts - particularly at So-ciete Generale Strauss Tumbull who recommended clients to buy Vickers, up 17p to 262p, and Pilkington, which closed 9p higher at 209p. Vickers were also in favour at Hoare Govett. The outlook for Lucas, 2p better at 203p, was also changed by Strauss Turnbull

from hold to buy. Courtands advanced 15p to 415p on hopes of a fall in raw

OIL EXPLORATION

ers and second liners, many of material prices, particularly which climbed to all-time highs for wood pulp which has climbed steeply over the last 18 months. The price of Booker fell 3p to 390p, however, amid talk of a line of several million shares being on offer with no takers in sight. Turnover in Transport Development Group was extremely high at 33.14 million shares. Price fell 6.5p

to 205.5p. The trading amounted to around 11 per cent of TDG's total issued shares. NatWest Securities was said to be handling most of the business, and there were rumours that the broker was having difficulty finding buyers for the stock. RM were in demand and

climbed 17p to 349p. The company is a prime supplier of computer systems to schools. and viewed as a main beneficiary of Tony Blair's education proposals should Labour come to power. Similarly, BT added

THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

FT-SE 100 - Renl-time 90 UK Stock Market Report 91

TAKING STOCK

Biagg, the builders' merchant, of Freepag competitor to BT's Talking Pages service, is almost signed, sealed and ready to deliver. Investors, bowever, should not expect a hefty premium to Blagg's current market price of 23.5p. Talk is that Freepages, headed by former Strauss Turnbull corporate financier Chris Akers, has agreed on 25p a share.

Abacus closed another 27p up at 275p, prompting 4 trading statement ahead of the figures. The electronic results for the year to September would be "somewhat" above analysts' forecasts of pre-tax profits of between £6.1m and £6.2m. There was an unconfirmed report that Panmure Gordon house broker, was upgrading its expectations to £6.5m.

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratto is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other deusits: ar Ex rights a Ex-dividend a Unlisted Securities Marter a Suspender PP Partly Paid pan Nil Paid Shares.

Sterling Rates
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Wall St Report
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Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

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INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 1995

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Europ

Morrison plans to have a brawl

Tatil Tommy Morrison was flattened in one round by Michael Bentt idea of a Great White Hope lingered in heavyweight boxing. The picture was of a solidly constructed, intelligently directed blond barnstormer with natural power, Irish blood and John Wayne perched on his family tree.

That the Morrison who is training to fight Lennox Lewis in Atlantic City on Saturday went unrecognised this week by people who had not seen him since the disaster in Tulsa is sufficient to suggest that reality now prevails over the wildness that brought a reputation for re-

lentless party-going.
The golden boy image, created by promoters who deserted when Bentt put paid to the \$8m (£5.3m) purse Morrison was to receive for a contest against Lewis in March last year, has been so altered by severe barbering and a tuft of beard that he was required to pose for a new set of photographs

According to Morrison's trainer, Tom Virgets, there is also what he considers to be a significant change in attitude. "I've never had a problem with Tommy in the gym," he said, "but I could never be sure what he was getting up to. There was always a distraction, another bimbo to take his mind off boxing and the gap between fights became one long party. Half the time we couldn't find him. Trouble is that Tommy still hasn't found himself and even now some asshole could come along and ruin all the work he has put in for this contest. Tommy not only drinks too much but he simply can't handle alcohol."

If it is unusual for a boxing trainer to be so forthright about his charge, Virgets is someOn Saturday Lennox Lewis will climb into the ring to fight a former golden boy trying to live down a tamished image. Ken Jones reports from Atlantic City

ness. An impressively fit man of 43 years he gained a doctorate in exercise physiology and held university posts as an athletic director before working full-time with Morrison.

'It's no exaggeration

to say I've often feared for Tommv's life, that he would end up

dead in some bar

In the five years they have been together, Virgets has more than once been close to giving up on the fighter from Gravette. Arkansas, especially when re-ceiving reports of yet another spectacular rampage. "It's no exaggeration to say I've often feared for Tommy's life, that he would end up dead in some bar," he added. "No matter how hard I preached, Tommy was deaf to the warning that no man is indestructible and his fists would not be much use if somebody came at him with a gun or a knife. Pleuty of people told me that I was wasting my time and when he lost to Bentt I almost packed

my bags."
A professional since the age of 19, by the time Morrison challenged the 1988 Olympic champion, Ray Mercer, for the World Boxing Organisation title in October 1991, a record of 29 straight victories fuelled the gets] saw when he watched Lewis

notion that he might become the first white American since Rocky Marciano to reign as the undisputed champion.

It didn't survive the fifth round. Utterly exhausted, Morrison was stopped when helpless on the ropes. "I'd grown so used to blowing people away that see-ing Mercer still there after taking my best shots left me with nowhere to go," he said this week. "To be honest the referee should have stopped the fight earlier because I took a lot of unnecessary punishment."

While that experience implanted in Morrison an understanding of serious limitations in technique and stamina it did nothing to curb an appetite for entertainment in the sort of locations that police officers ap-proach wardy. I don't think I did more drinking than was good for me," Morrison said, "but if I had a bottle in my hand it was always where people could see me. I guess that was the silliest part because guys were always calling me out, looking for trouble. Ever since I was a kid I've been confident of coming out on top in a brawl but the ring is a lot different from a bar. Thar's been my problem."

It was about three o'clock in the afternoon and Morrison was stripped down for light sparring in a hotel by the Jersey shore. He looked in excellent shape, the results of two months training evident in a hard torso and the clearly defined ridges of his abdomen. He is encouraged by the impression that Lewis is lacking in resolution. "From what I've seen and the things Tommy [Vir-

fight Frank Bruno, I don't think Morrison's sixth-round knockhe has the balls for this business. out of Donovan "Razor" Rud-I see in him what I saw in some dock three months ago of the footballers I came up encouraged Virgets to believe against Morrison was suffithat better days lie ahead. "The ciently effective as a high school fifth round has always been a crilinebacker to be offered a college sis point for Tommy so you can imagine how I felt when he got up from the floor to get rid of scholarship], like he promises

Ruddock. Not that there is any point in trying to change his style. I think I've managed to make Tommy more relaxed in the ring so that he he doesn't burn up all that energy, but he is what he is, a go-forward guy who is always looking to end things quickly." Morrison's body is not en-

tirely the one he started out with. Football injuries resulted in four leg operations including the total reconstruction of one knee and following the victory over Ruddock he underwent shoulder surgery. "Getting the shoulder fixed has unquestionably improved Tommy's scope," Vir-

gets insisted. "He's known for the power of his left hook but there is plenty in the right and if it lands Lewis will go. As for the widespread notion

Photograph: Simon Bruty/Allsport

that Morrison is better at knocking people down than getting up, it doesn't figure on Virgets' agenda.



Tommy Morrison prepares to put his best foot forward in Saturday's heavyweight bout against Lennox Lewis

Offiah World Cup blow for England

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

England suffered another setback in their preparations for the Centenary World Cup yesterday with the withdrawal of the wingheeled Martin Offiah, who has a calf strain, from both this Saturday's opening match at Wembley and next Wednesday's

The 28-year-old Wigan playto face the world champions, Australia, and his absence is a significant blow for a team already deprived of Gary Connolly, who has pneumonia.

John Bentley, of Halifax, will replace Offiah on the left wing at Wembley. The England coach, Phil Larder, said: "Martin's a world-class player and it's a terrible blow, but I'm sure John will not let us down."

One player certain to play a key role in England's campaign is Kris Radlinski. He has been handed one of the high-pressure er had been expected to be fit jobs in world sport - playing full-

just five senior games in the po-sition. The 19-year-old Wigan player, normally a wing or centre, was the first named yesterday in England's team on Saturday.

Despite his lack of experience in the position, Radlinski is such an assured individual that his coach has no doubts about his ability to cope. "I've got every faith in Kris," Larder thinking about the squad weeks son's typically solid display for Halago, Shaun Edwards and others ifax has won him the vote. at Wigan were telling me about

New Zealand have named

like Radlinski, on the bench.

the senior member of the squad,

Karl Harrison, has won the con-

test to start the match at open-side

prop. Castleford's Dean Sampson

to see whether I could go over

been like a breath of fresh air

perience to be with them and

watch their way of life and the

way they go about things. The

players have the manners and the humility that you don't often find

among modern sportsmen."

"It has been a humbling ex-

to me," he says.

At the other end of the scale,

more than he's got to offer."

against Tonga at Warrington on Sunday, and there are more sur-Other young Wiganers have been given important jobs, with prises in it than there are in Engthe 22-year-old Barrie-Jon land's. Their most-capped Mather in the centre, 20-yearplayer, Gary Freeman, is old Andy Farrell at loose forward and Simon Haughton, 19 pushed out of the scrum-half role by Stacey Jones, Richard Barnett also make his debut on the wing and two British-based players, Henry Paul and Kevin iro, are only on the bench.

Newtown (Bractical Bulls), Senatery (Halfact, Pow-ell (Yeighley), Edwards (Wigan, capt); Hamison (Halfac), Jackson (Sheffrett Eagles), Platt (Audison'd Warmon), Betts (Audison'd Warmon), Charles (Martin)



Radlinski: England debut ms (Auckard Warriors), Joses (Auckard War-nors): Peogla (Camberra Raiders), Eru (Auckard Warriors), Lowele (Sydney Cty Roost-ers), T Iro (Sydney Cty Roosters), Kasmey (Auckard Warriors), Kasme (Leeds), Substi-

Lowe enjoys life with the unpredictable Samoans

made Graham Lowe the last chief to arrive at the game's great gathering of the clans this week but, typically, he was the man who came up with the best sound-bite.

How on earth would he set about preparing a Western Samoan souad, some of whom had never met each other, let alone played together, for the Centenary World Cup?

Simple, he told the crowd assembled for the official launch of the tournament. They would have a sing-song and a couple of games of tick-and-pass and

Lindsay, who once employed Lowe as coach of Wigan, "you'll believe anything."

nament will be a little more thoroughly groomed than Lowe admits, but there is an element of truth in his banter.

There is just no time to mould

The dark horses of the tour-

a group of players drawn from New Zealand, Australia and England as well as their own islands into anything very complicated or even coherent. There is more than enough time, however, to fire them up by stoking an already fierce national pride they would be ready. and to give them their heads, "If you believe that," said the which is exactly what Lowe, in

Dave Hadfield meets the rejuvenated coach of the World Cup's dark horses

Wales next week, will do. It is something of a miracle that Lowe, the former New Zealand, Oneensland and Manly coach, as well as the man who began Wigan's decade of dominance, is here at all. A lifethreatening embolism looked to have ended his coaching career

four years ago, but Lowe has simply refused to lie down and play the invalid. Apart from his Samoan commitments, he is due to take

over at the North Queensland

As a coach in New Zealand, Lowe was used to dealing with Samoans; they are an important sub-culture within the game their games against France and Cowboys next season, but you there. "I've had a lot to do with Samoans for 40 years. I know sense that it is working with the islanders that has sharpened his appetite once more. "They their psyche and understand their philosophy of life." phoned me up out of the blue

And yet the question of quite how they will perform in the most compelling group of the World Cup remains a tantalisand help them out, and it has ing mystery to him, as it is to most other people.

"Anything could happen with these blokes," he says. "They could get wiped out or they could wipe everyone else out. There is so much flair. They do

environment, terrify you. But

Éven with players like Va'aiga Tuigamala and John Schuster available, Samoa face a formidable task in taking on France and Wales within three days of each other. "We'll only have time for about three feeds and back out there again," says Lowe. "Mind you, with these blokes, that's equivalent to about 20 meals with other people."

Throw in a sing-song and a few games of touch football and everything will be set fair for a convalescent coach and his bunch of friendly strangers. As things with the ball which, as a he says, anything could happen.

petitioners. Ames consulted the

Electoral Reform Society just up

the road from The Oval who re-

vealed that they could have run the show for £3,150 plus VAT

Soper's tone and mood are

conciliatory. "If they want it to

be a rough-house we'll let them

have it, but I don't think it will

be. I think we can meet half-

way," he says. He also asserts

that there will be changes in per-

sonnel before the new season -

the most obvious candidate be-

Jelfs enjoying the view from the summit

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Glasgow

Britain's top-ranked women's player, who jogs the WTA Tour computer's memory at No 224 in the world, is about to remind the nation of her existence. The name is Lizzie Jelfs, and she will make her debut today against the United States in the Maureen Connolly Trophy.

Due to her improved form, and the continuing decline of the British women's game, the 19year-old Jelfs returned to Banbury, Oxfordshire, after reaching the semi-finals of a £75,000 Challenger event in Brazil during the first week in August and found herself ranked above everyone else in the country. Realising that this was not entirely her fault, Jelfs sensibly decided to make the best of it.

On the way to the Maureen Connolly Trophy 21-and-under team event at the Scotstoun Leisure Centre here, she lost to one compatriot, Julie Pullin, in the first round of a \$25,000 (£16,000) Challenger in China and defeated another, Lucie Ahl, in the final of a Reebok Tour event in Middlesex. The Reebok domestic circuit and the Challenger and Satellite international tournaments are

the staple for aspiring talent.
Jelfs, the 1994 national junior champion, has arrived at an op-portune moment. Between this morning and Saturday evening. Britain will attempt to record their first hat-trick in the Maureen Connolly Trophy, a trans-Atlantic competition inaugur-ated in 1973, 20 years after "Little Mo's" Grand Slam triumph and four years after her death. The Americans have won 17 of the 22 previous matches.

While any sign of British progress is welcome, a sense of proportion is advisable. The Maureen Connolly Trophy, pre-sented by ADT Auctions, does

not attract the most talented young American players, most of whom are too busy making their fame and fortune. The current team comprises three collegiate players, ranking from No 387 to No 730, and two from high school without a ranking. Among those eligible, but over-qualified, are the highly ranked 19year-olds Lindsay Davenport and Chanda Rubin and the inactive 19-year-old Jennifer Capriati

(Monica Seles is a month too old). Britain have selected the top five eligible players: Jelfs, Karen Cross, of Exeter, Devon (245). Ahl, also of Exeter (322). Mandy Wainwright, of Ching-ford, Essex (343) and Kate Warne-Holland, of Stockport, Cheshire (384), who, like Jelfs. is making her first appearance.

Ann Jones, the captain, who presents as optimistic a view of the British game as possible in the circumstances, considers that the situation has "bottomed out and ought to start going up from here".

Always one to respect American teams, Jones expects a "good, strong, solid perfor-mance" from her players, and believes the current squad to be "fitter and mentally stronger" than those in the past. "Lizzie's where she is because she's one of the ones who has worked the hardest," she says. "But Lizzie's only just ahead of the pack, and

that is creating competition." Jelfs agrees, "I am only just ahead, and if somebody overtakes me, that will be even more incentive for me to keep going. We're all pushing each other. While I've been practising the last two or three weeks I've been asked what it's like being No 1, and it still seems a strange question, because I try not to think about it too much. I feel no different, really. I still have the same goal - I want to improve. OK, I'm No 1, but, to keep it in perspective, I'm No 224 in the world, which is nothing really. I still have a long way to go.'

Own goal?

From Ms C Inson

Sir: A successful agent Eric Hall may be, but football punditry clearly isn't his strong suit. Explaining why freedom of movement for footballers is a good thing, he breezily claims (Another View, 22 September) that if Arsenal were all Italians, French, Israelis and Nigerians, the supporters would still love it as long as they were scoring goals and winning the games. Oh dear, Eric. Don't give up

Even the Prime Minister of Luxembourg knows that the abiding fantasy of Arsenal fans is to win the game without scoring goals. Yours faithfully CAROLINE INSON Luxembourg

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

Discontent at The Oval as sorry Surrey seek change of fortune icant changes have taken place. having more regard to the in-ternational affairs in SE11. ropolitan Police Commissioner hardly neutral in the eyes of the

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Sorry Surrey was never a more appropriate epithet than now, slipping, as it does, so slickly off the tongue. A summer of empty promise has spilled over into an autumn of discontent, with a large group of disaffected supporters successfully petition-ing the club to hold a Special General Meeting at The Oval

Underlying their motion, which instructs the club to draw up a plan to restore the fortunes of Surrey cricket, to reinstate the

Ghost Ryder in the Sky

From K W Exelby Sir: I was extremely disappointed at not being able to follow the progress of our Ryder Cup team battle for victory in the United States. I feel that the decision to sell the broadcast rights to a satellite channel was

a mean and selfish act. It displays a very egotistic attitude on behalf of the golfing authorities, who seem to have completely ignored the efforts of Sky going to have sole rights to

cricket committee and to raise the level of democracy and value in membership in south London, is the unspoken fear that the club is more concerned with its

status as a Test match ground. Paul Ames, secretary of the Surrey Action Group, which instigated the petition, wants to see Surrey succeed on the field. "We are showing them that the membership is not going to accept below-par standards," Ames said. "The aim of this motion is to show the management that they are accountable to the membership for the state of Surrey cricket." Since the petition was drawn up, however, a couple of signif-

the BBC over the years in striving to promote this event and given it such excellent coverage.

If my support can so easily be

dispensed with when the team is

playing away, maybe I might not be so keen to find the time to support them at home. Yours, K W EXELBY

Lympstone, Devon

From Mr B J Bates Sir. Sport for all! Rubbish. Is which may well render much of the motion redundant. Firstly, in the absence

through injury of captain Alec Stewart, they discovered a more than adequate stand-in in Adam Hollioake, who brought some Southern Hemisphere steel to an under-performing side. Secondly, Brian Downing re-signed as chairman on the last

day of the season to be succeeded by businessman Mike Soper. Downing, a successful busine man himself, and chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's marketing committee. was regarded by the membership as

all_major sporting occasions?

late to retain major events for

our main channels. If the licence

fee has to be increased, so be it.

Better spent on the "Beeb"

We should be able to watch

The Ryder Cup, the FA Cup,

Wimbledon, the Olympics, Test

Series. Boat Race etc without

having to buy a channel with basketball etc. Whether we can

afford it or not.

BARRY J BATES

Solihull, West Midlands

than wasted on the Lottery.

The government must legis-

he promised: "I want us to spend more time with the supporters' club, because that is the He is adamant that whichever way the vote goes it can only be a Pyrrhic victory. "I would like to see a lot of those things called for in the motion to be done."

Soper is different. I am not miracle worker," he says.

Maybe not, but he is a fan. And

official voice of the members." There is a problem over the reinstatement of the cricket committee, in that later this month or early next the Imbert Report, chaired by former Met-

From Mr N Todd

may well make recommendations which encompass the wishes of the recalcitrant members. Surrey's management did not endear themselves to many members when they announced

Sir Peter Imbert, will publish its

findings into an investigation

into the running of the club and

that the cost of the meeting would be around £15,000. They further dented their claims that they are a democratically run club when it was revealed that the whole issue was going to be overseen by their bankers, auditors and solicitors, all up-

ing the coach, Grahame Clinton, and possibly, although probably unfairly, Mike Edwards, the distanding organisations but rector of cricket.

Players like Faldo, Ballesteros. Pavin and Couples are there just because they want to of mention about the Ryder be. The quality of play, honesty, friendship and depth of feeling Cup, which provides the "icing on the icing" so to speak. extends beyond comprehension. I know the expenses are very generous and the endorsements

that follow very lucrative but in what other sport are you able Play for today to gather together 24 worldclass sportsmen (and two cap-

SPORTS LETTERS For the fun of it

privileged to watch and not have to pay the players to play. Sir: As a golfing nutcase, I think one particular point is worthy

Yours sincerely NICHOLAS TODD Shirley, Surrey

tains) and put on the sort of From R L Hammond show that we have just been Sir: There have been lots of com-

ments by journalists and others suggesting that English sup-porters will not tolerate posses-

sion football, preferring the

non-cerebral all-action game favoured by Charles Hughes. I'm a Manchester United supporter and after watching the game with Liverpool on Sunday, I must confess, and it hurts to admit it, I could watch the type of possession game Liv-erpool play every week. If they

can do it why can't the rest? Yours faithfully R L HAMMOND. Lowestoft, Suffolk

sport

Europe to stage £2m race day

Each November, European racmg casts envious glances at the cash-soaked glamour of the Breeders' Cup meeting in the United States, but we may be able to boast a more positive reone of the focal points of the en-

five principal racing countries: Great Britain, France, Ireland, Italy and Germany, with the last-named a strong favourite to hold the inaugural event in two years' time. The timing has been carefully chosen, both to allow the meeting to be held, as far as is possible, in good weathmoney, a festival of the sport in Europe which would become be quite possible for horses to run at both. Although planning is still at

rotate between the continent's and two handicaps, with individual countries also having the opportunity to stage events of more local interest. Entries from each participating country would be limited in all events, even the handicaps, to allow a broad European representa-

The Pattern Committee referred to the event as the European Racing Day, although a slightly snappier title will no doubt be arrived at in due course. Since it will be scheduled re Flat season.

The meeting is expected to an early stage, a statement released yesterday by the Euro
isting meeting in the host country, the list of possible bosts each year to coincide with an ex-

pean Pattern Committee en- when Britain's turn arrives will visaged four Group One races be fairly short, probably stretching no further than Ascot, the smartest track in the country, which already stages its own Festival of British Racing in late September each year. Doncaster, which hosts the St Leger meeting in early September, is another obvious candidate.

Since Ascot's own Festival may struggle to compete with its new European rival, this seems only fair, although other British tracks - Newmarket and York, for example - may feel aggrieved if they are left out of the

"We'd have to be very careful it didn't act against other ex-

isting festivals," Paul Greeves, the British Horseracing Board's Racing Director, said yesterday. "The idea of building it on existing days should overcome that problem."

Where possible, current Group One events will be incorporated into the European Racing Day, but the Pattern Committee will also upgrade Group Two or Three contests on a one-off basis where necessary, or introduce new events

Support for the day will be provided partly by the European Breeders' Fund in an arrangement similar to that which pro-vides the financial basis for the

Lanfranco Dettori put the seal on a memorable week when he

reached his second successive

double century at York yester-

day. The 24-year-old Italian,

who on Sunday partnered

Lammtarra to victory in the Prix

de l'Arc de Triomphe, joins a list comprising only Fred Archer and Sir Gordon Richards as

jockeys to have achieved the feat

the last century, and current

practitioners in Jason Weaver.

Pat Eddery and Michael

Roberts are the only others to

have notched 200 in a season.

Dettori hit the double century

on 1 September, also at York,

Tommy Loates, at the end of

more than once.

nificant contributions will also be expected from the host courses and a major - and as yet unknown - corporate sponsor if the ambitious target of a £2m prize fund is to be met.

Clearly, much careful thought and planning will be required both before and after the next meeting of the Pattern Committee, in December, which will decide the venue for the first European Racing Day in 1997 (at this stage, Baden-Baden is the likely favourite). In time, though, the continent's racing industry may build a showpiece day of which it can justifiably be proud.

time round. He has bounced

back in style after being

knocked unconscious in a fall

his mount, Wainwright, at Hay-

dock in August. That left him sidelined for 12 days.

but it's still a great achievement

and a great relief," he said after

reaching the landmark on Sheer

Danzig. "I had the fall but it's the

best year of my life. Now I've got the 200 it's a big relief. Let's hope

I can do it again next year."

Dettori ruled out any possi-

bility of beating Sir Gordon Richards's best of 269. "I'm de-

lighted to have achieved the 200

at York again but Γm not going

"I'm a month later this time

which resulted in the death of

Labour holds its horses over racing

Mark Howe seeks out policies towards the turf from a party in pursuit of power

The spectre of Marx has been haunting Tony Blair's New Labour this week, but in the guise of the brothers rather than the stern apostle of brother-

While Lammtarra was taking the Turf's Bastille by storm, the party was taking control of the commanding heights of Brighton's cliff-top course to

stage a day at the races.
The meeting was the culmination of Labour's Rolling Rose programme of events around the country, to take the gospel according to Blair to the mass-

The sun shone and they turned up in their thousands to give the course its biggest attendance for decades at Sunday's fixture, moving the course's marketing director, Roger Easterby, to enthuse that it was the best thing to happen to the Kemptown track since Graham Greene wrote Brighton Rock. What the old fellow traveller would have made of New Labour's travelling road show is anybody's

guess. But while the party has em-braced the politics of the pantechnicon, it could not escape an element of pantomime, as a stage centair stood sentry outside the members' entrance.

Inside, the political message was muted, although an extremist note was struck by the Channel 4 personality and freemarketeer John McCririck, a Damascene convert to Labour's chances of forming the next gov-

McCririck got into the rosy spirit of the occasion by advising the multitudes to back Lord Huntingdon's Red Light, while reminding his audience: "Some members of the Labour Party want to abolish the House of Lords." A sentiment with which that radical scion of the Huntingdon family, Jack Hastings, whose mural depicting workers' Memorial Library in London,

would have agreed. John Prescott had no more luck with his tips than McCririck. Labour's all-action deputy leader declared that he would not be backing Naval Gazer in the opener. The David Lodertrained hotpot bolted in.

The modernising mariner is more willing to pronounce on form than the content of policy. The albatross of commitment weighs as heavily on the party when it comes to racing as it does in deliberations on other issues.

Alan Meale, the MP who was the prime mover behind Labour's involvement with the Brighton meeting, expounds the party's good intentions toward racing energetically.

The sport already has a high priority and has been "discussed at leadership level", as the fifth biggest industry in the country, turning over £11 billion a year and employing 150,000

"We took a gamble on holding the meeting, because we be-lieve in racing." Meale says, adding in the flush of Sunday's success, "we would have filled Epsom.

Labour has been talking earnestly to the British Horseracing Board and the Tote, Meale explains: "We have opened the door to racing before we got into government. We want to help in any way we

The assistance will not extend to providing the Tote panacea some in racing wish to see. Meale envisages a "public-private partnership developing, in

'Lord Wyatt has failed to develop the potential of pool betting'

which the Tote will play a leading role." But, he insists, "you can't separate bookmakers from the industry. We're not into sectionalism. We're not pro-bookmaker or anti-bookmaker. We're pro-racing.

"Nobody should be fearful about Labour in racing," is Meale's refrain.

But while, come the next election, the Maktoums may not have to quit the country before the last person turns out the light, the Tote chairman, Woodrow Wyatt, should start packing his bags now.

The Labour home affairs spokesman on the betting industry, George Howarth, says: "The Tote has been badly led for some time. Lord Wyatt, in par-

potential of pool betting."

But the party has no definite proposals, even on betting tax. merely seeking "a more level playing field between different forms of betting because of the effect of the lottery," Howarth

It is a playing field, however, from which the monopoly bookmakers show every sign of wanting to take their ball home.

unless they get their way. Amid the tensions besetting racing, Labour chose the racegoer-friendly path in staging Sunday's meeting. If it continues along it in government, the party may have to be prepared to resist the pressures of the corporate razor gangs who want to

7-4; 2. Magic Bloom 10-11 for: 3. Peru-vian Gale 6-1.4 ram. 1% 9. (KBaley). Your £2.70 DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.49. 4.48: 1. STAR OF DAVID U Ryam 20-1;

TOWCESTER

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Step Aloft

(York 5.00)

NB: Zalament

(York 3.30)

carve the sport up on their

RACING RESULTS 2.00: 1. DASHING BLUE (I. Dettori) 13-2; 2. Night Hills 7-4 far; 3. Phermecy 14-1. 14 ran. 1%, 3%, (Baiding, Kngsclern). Pote: £5.80; £2.10; £1.20; £3.40, DF; £3.70. CSF: £19.37. Treast: £159.33. Tree: £22.40. CSF: £19.37. Treast: £159.33. Tro: £22.40. 2.30: 1. MOVING AIRROW U Mewer! 8-1: 2. ARI 3-1 far: 3. Verzen 7-2. 8 rbn. 1. rh. (Mass S Hal, Middleharn). Rober £9.10; £2.10. £1.40, £1.80. DF: £23.00. CSF: £22.46. Tricast: £93.76. 3.00: 1. ROVAL DOME (M Roberts) 8-1; 2. Chadwell Hall 12-1; 3. Here Cornes A Star 9-1; 4. Silk Cottage 16-1. 22 ran. 13-2 far Albara. Ind. /a. (Marryn Wane, Rochmond). Totas £7.40; £2.10, £2.60, £2.30, £6.30. DF: £41.20. (25: £97.90, £2.30,

4.45: 1. STAR OF DAVID U Ryan: 20-1; 2. Porphyrica 4-5 fav. 3. Durrano 9-1. 12 ran. 1½, 6. (Miss. A Embroco), Totes: £49.00; £5.30, £1.10, £2.50, Dr. £51.00, CSF: £38.66 Tno: £170.60, 5.20: 1. LUCY TUFTY (P. Hdel: 6-1; 2. Gala's Pride: 10-11 fay; 3. Britannia Milla 13-2. 5 ran. ½, 1. 1) Pearcel: Rote £8.60, £2.50, £1.10, Dr. £3.10, CSF: £11.37, Non Rumer, Rosscoyne, Placepot: £18.10, Quadget: £8.70, Place 6: £22.89, Place &: £12.00, £6.30. DP: £41.20. CSF: £97.90. Incast: £819.44. Tho: £120.40. Non Runner; Walk 2819-44, Ind.: 2.1.20.40. Not numer; was. The Beat; 3.35: 1. SHEER DANZIG (I. Detron) 7-2: 2. Sadier's Walk 7-1; 3. Mbutwa 33-1. 13 ran, 100-30 fav Sweet Nigronette (Ith). 4, 1%. (R Armstrong, Newmarket). Yote: £4.00; £1.70, £2.40, £10.60. DF: £11.40. CSF; £29.38. Incost: £674.06. Tro: £699.30. A 06-1 betweet on any MacRy (Ros. En.

TOWCESTER

2.20: 1. TELMAR SYSTEMS: (*P. McLoughin*) 7-2: 2. Hallham Tarn 25-1. 4 ram, 4-9
lav Big Pat (pulled up), '... U White). Toka:
53.70. DF: £19.00. CSF: £30.92 Only two
finished. No but for writer.
2.50: 1. HAWAILAN YOUTH (D O'Sulfucin)
11-8 fas: 2. Just Rossie 11-4; 3. Aerdeom 121. 7 ram, 8, 3. (R Rower, Toka: £1.80; £1.30,
£1.80. DF: £1.80. CSF: £4.34. Happack Lad
(5-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule
4 apples to all bets, deduct 150 m £
3.20: 1. STRONG PROMISE (K Goule) 51: 2. Stringstry 4-5 fax; 3. Washing Tasi 2-1. 2:29.38. Intest: 1674.06. Tre: 1699.30.
4.05: 1. PRINICE OF MY HEART 'Pat Enterly! 7-4 fav. 2. Income 11-4; 3. Northern Sout 14-1. 13 ran. 1 %, 6. (8 Hits, Lambours, Totals: 12-40, 13.0, 13.90, DF. £1.90.
CSF: £7.75. Tro: £29.40. NR: Fillmessan-Town. 4.35; 1. Bahamian Sunshine (I. Del-101) 6-4; 2. Corradini 5-6; 3. Tethys 6-1, 3

ran. 4, 9. (D Loder, Newmarket). Tota: £2.00. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.97. 5.05: 1. VICTORIA REISIA (Par Eddery) 1-2 for, 2. Sihari 5-1: 3. Lachesis 20-1. 8 ran. 5, 7. (R Charlton, Beckhampton). Tota: £1.50; £1.20, £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF:

£3.82. Jacispot: £37,265.40 (part won, pool of £21,519.47 to York today).
Placepot: £27.50. Quadpot: £8.00.
Place 6: £128.85. Place 5: £58.44. MARKET RASEN

MARKEL KASEN
2.10: 1. RELATED SOUND (Arm Stokel)
16-1; 2. Singlesole 6-5 lay; 3. John Tufty
9-4, 5 ran, 1. 9. (M. Barractough, Totes
127.80: 5.20, 6.1.20, bf: £16.50. CSF:
£33.40. NR: Biglished Bill.
2.40: 1. MODBAKKR (A S Smith) 6-4 lay;
2. Evanteur Windler 5: 1: 3. Rockes Mae 9-2.40: 1. MODERAKKR (A S Smith) 6-4 for 2. 2. San Glorigo even ta: 3. Pettango 2. Fearless Wonder 5-1: 3. Rockus Mae 9-4, 5 ran. 2. 6, (K Morgan), Totes £1.80; £4.70, £1.20. DF: £6.40, CSF: £11.77 4. 5 ran. 2. 6. (K Morgan), Totes £1.80; £1.10, £1.90. DF. £5.50. CSF £8.36.
3.10: 1. PLEASURE RROCK (N Williamson) 15-8 fav; 2. Brackentimanier 13-2; 3. Little Conter 10-1. 11 ran. 5, 6. (N Tinder), Total £1.10. CSF £1.476. Tho: £13.60, Non Runner. Swynford Flyer.
3.48: 1. BERTONE (N Williamson) 4-7 fax; 2. Salman 12-1; 3. Gorby's Myth 9-2. 9 ran. [20. 11. 6f Bankov, Total £1.50: £1.10, £2.10.

20, 11, (K Bastry), Tota: £1.50; £1.10, £2.10, £1.40, DF: £6.30, CSF: £8.90, Tro: £5.60, Rs: Bulgaden Castle, Noblety. 4.15; 1. OVER THE STREAM (N WIGHTSON)

THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175

6 can. 3%, 6. IG Hubbarth. Total: £6.20; £2.30, £1.20. DF: £5.30. CSF: £9.78.
3.55: 1. SQUIRE JIM (A A Fitgarda) 25-1; 2. Frazen Drop 9-4 Ji fav; 3. Royal Saxon 7-2.9 rpn. 9-4 Ji fav; 2.mich. ½, pl. II) Babbagel. Total: £25.60; £3.50. £1.60. £1.60. £1.60. CSF: £80.42. Thrast: £237.60. Tho: £47.40. NR: Dermungton.
4.25: 1. SECRET BID (Mr P Herley) 11.
2. San Elevatin autors tai-3. Perfased: 20. 4.55: 1. NO LIGHT II. Harvey) 5-2 fay; 2, Atherton Green 6-1; 3. Beneron Cove 11-21.90, 12.10, 11.40. DP: £16.20. CSF: £17.46. Tricas: £70.35. Tric: £20.90. NR; Joys Frst, Laabas. Piacepot: £88.90. Quadpot: £4.90. Piace 6: £29.00. Piace 5: £4.40.



sponse from 1997. Europe's er and on a fair surface, while racing authorities yesterday revealed plans for a one-day with the Breeders' Cup. Inmeeting each September car-rying at least £2m in prize-tween the two cards, it should

Cecil relieved by split

Henry Cecil, whose 14-year working relationship with Sheikh Mohammed came to a dramatic conclusion on Tuesday, has given his first public reaction to the Sheikh's decision to withdraw his horses from War-

ren Place. The partnership, one of the most successful in racing history and responsible for 57 European Pattern wins including 10 Classics, came to an acrimonious end with the news that the Sheikh will be withdrawing all 40 horses in his ownership from Cecil's care.

The trainer, attending the Goffs Sales in Ireland, was initially reluctant to comment on the split between the two. But. hurrying to the rear entrance of but a decision on a permanent

2.00 Thracian

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<u> 3</u> % ≟

E817-1

4,200,0

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2.30 Eagle Canyon 3.00 Cyrano's Lad

3.30 Sunday News'N'Echo

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). STALLS: 51, 61, 71 - stands side; round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51 & 61.

the sales, where his wife, Natalie, was waiting to drive him away, Cecil said: "I'll just say one thing. After the last two weeks of what has been written and read, his decision to take his horses away is probably the

The break up comes after a build up of tension between the two in recent weeks. The Sheikh chose the Cecil-trained Mark Of Esteem to join the exodus to Dubai, following in the hoofprints of this year's Classic winners Vettori, Moonshell and Classic Cliche, who were in

Cecil's care as juveniles. The 40 horses will stay at the Sheikh's Dalham Hall Stud in Newmarket in the short term,

4.00 Jo Meli (nb)

4.30 Mellottie

5.00 Step Aloft

HYPERION

Left-hand, U-shaped course. Flat and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Course is Im S of city on A1036, York station Im. AD\$415810N: County Stand \$16 (16-25 year-olds \$10); Thatenauls \$2; Silver Ring \$4 (OAPs £2); Course \$2.50 (OAPs £1). Under-16s free all enclosures. CAR PARE: \$2, remainder free.

All races

ILSADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: 3 Goaden — 38 winners from 125 ranners gives a success ratio of ::5.4% and a profit to a 51 level stake of \$20.16; B Goedi — 38 winners, 108 runners, 25.9%, +\$1.04; M Stoute — 24 winners, 141 runners, 17.9%, +\$0.55; B Hannon — 20 winners, 195 runners, 10.6%, \$67.51.

ILSADING JOCASTS: Pat Raddery — 44 winners, 227 rides, 19.4%, -\$5.08; L Dettori — 35 winners, 197 rides, 17.8%, +\$7.52; M Roberts — 35 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, +\$30.60; W Carson — 35 winners, 237 rides, 14.8%, -\$5.58 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, +\$30.60; W Carson — 35 winners, 237 rides, 14.8%, -\$5.50 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, -\$6.50 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, -\$5.50 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, -\$5.00 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, -\$5.00 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, -\$5.00 winners, 207 rides, 20.00 winners, 207 rides, 20.00 winners, 207 rides, 20.00 winners, 20.00 w

2.00 BADGER HILL FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £6,472

John Dunkor's THERACIAN is beginning to live up to her breeding. A helf-sister to the Calss placed pair Maysoon and Three Tails, she should do even better over this trip after besting 22 mais in a Nottingham maden (6f) 1.6 days ago. That was her first run since her Goodwood debut two months earlier and Chalamont, second at Nottingham, boosted the form by trotting up at Redcar on Tuestay, Disnakya is a half-sister to Loyalize, who did her wining over five and six furlongs last year. She has already been besten by a Dunkop filly (Nejiya, who was behind her at Newmarket) at Haydock and Sir Mark Prescott's newcomer Last Secend turned her over at Redcar atterwards.

1994; no corresponding size

SONGSHEET has a pacey pedigree and is taken to peg back Emma O'Gorman's mount Music Gold. Rae Guest can produce first-time-out womers and Songsheet comes from the family of the top spiritiar Song. The feeling is that Songsheet has been showing enough at home to warrant a tilt on her debut at this top track. Music Gold has been a bit unfucly on both starts. Slowly away when second to Air Wing at Sondown, he stambled in the closing stages when leading at Lingfield next time enabling Alec Stewarts newcomer, Anglast, to pin him. If the rain changes the ground to anything like soft, Music Gold will have an even better chance, Eagle Camyon drops back to five furiongs after two runs at seven furiongs in races won by newcomers in better grade than this. Magle Mail should also be quick, being by Angion out of a Blue Cashmere mand, but Governors Dream has not shown enough to be considered. Selection: SONGSHEET.

3.00 ALLIED DUNBAR RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,750 added 7f Penaity Value £7,952

nine (4.00) sent 255 miles by J Dunlop from Arandel, W

51. THENCIAN (16) (Heamonds Stud) / Duniop 8 12 222. DINNOW (USA) (12) (BP) (Shelin Mohammod) D Lo

BETTING: 4-5 Thrucian, evens Disnolyu 1994: Tenigix Patrol 2 8 10 M Roberts 5-1 (R Harmon) 4 ran

destination has yet to be Justin Wadham, managing

director of Darley Stud Man-agement, said: "The horses have now come under the control of the Dalham Hall Stud. But the decision as to where they will be sent is one for my principal to make and not for me. Our task is to send them wherever we are instructed to." One of the favourites to ben-

efit from Cecil's loss is David Loder, who trained his first Group One winner for the Sheikh when Blue Duster took the Cheveley Park Stakes last Speaking at York yesterday,

Loder said: "I don't know

2-45006 NEUHAB (USA) (12) (D) (Hamon Al Maksoum) P Walkyn 3 8 8... 001313 WESTERN SAME (USA) (12) (D) (5 Virgled) J Dunlop 3 8 6......

ENDIRACTIES EXPRESS (1.5) (D) (Shelifn Ahmed bin Seeed Al Mattacum) J Hills 3 8 4

Afrimum weight (3yo): But 4th. True handkap weight: Emission Engraves Str 18b.

EETTINE: 5-2 Western Fenne, 11-4 Cyrano's Lad, 4-1 Evergades, 6-1 89 Nod, 7-1 Celestial Key, 8-1 Method. 12-1 officers

1994: Carranto 4 9 2 T Sprake 6-1 (8 Paling) 9 zan

FORM GUIDE

WESTERN FAMIL has a fine chance ofter running so well from a poor draw at Accot. He is a typical John Dunlop handicapper, improving once tried in a higher league at Newmarket back in July after winning a poor race at Leicester. Samale proved too good for him at Newmarket but Western Fame trotted up at Newcastle. That win meant a Sib penalty for Accot.

market but Western Fame trotted up at Newcastle. That win meant a 5th penalty for Ascot but it could well have been defied had he been racing with the action on the stands side. As it was, Western Fame won the race on the far side in finishing third to Night Dence and Decorated Hero and the subsequent winner from the race was Samah (on Saturday) – about a length behind Western Fame at Ascot when a pound better off compared to Newmarket. Western Fame, again over his optimum trop, had Cyrano's Lad well behind him at Newmarket and can confirm the form on 6lb worse terms despite Cyrano's Lad's subsequent win from Nabi at Newmarket tast week. Mathabi is the one to beat. He has been pacemaking for Behin in Group races and is better than his run behind Ald (same ownershop) in a Doncaster handicap (Im) last morth suggests. This shorter tip will suit Muhab, who is now 7th better of with Celestial Key joich at Doncastern and Peter Welvyn's colt van away with a comportive nursery at Newmarket 1.4 morths ago. Celestial Key faded in the Cambridgshire on Saturday and needs to improve (only 5lb better off) to make up the leavey on the Ascot run with Western Fame, where he fireshed 19th. Everglades may have to west another day, being without Pet Eddeny and concedeng so much weight to an improving three-year-old, while

6113 ALZANTI (15) (BF) (Eller Recorg Club) P Cole 9 7.
441 J. O MELL (25) (C H Howton Intr Col) M H Sesterby 9 4.
531 WEET-A-BINUTIC (25) (Ed Westman Lol) R Hollenshead
6331. SAMMI (USA) (13) (Hamalan Al Meldoum) J Dunlop 9 1



Cecit: hurried exit

ter speak to the people in

The removal of the Sheikh's horses sparked fears of job cuts among the 70 staff at Warren Place. But a spokeswoman for the stable said: "I wouldn't have thought there would be what's going on. You had bet- any immediate redundancies."

last season, but injuries and susto talk about records because I pensions have held him up this won't do it this year," he said. 3321 MOSE NO BOUNDS (19) (D) (Pudings Recorg) M Johnston 8 9 ... 043 SDX (CLERRIS (47) (Marquesa de Moracala) J FioGerald 8 6 O43 SKX CLEMS (47) (Marques de Moderala) Fixterial 8 6
54020 URGENT SMIPT (53) (1 Fust A Jame 8 5
00615 IN PARADISUM (553) (20) (0) (461 J Ramsder) Mrs J Ramsder 7 7
00002 THE WIPD (22) (W) Kelyl D Mctrolls 7 7
220610 SCRINEBURY (44) (48) to Johnson S Woods 7 7
0400 NIXETHERN PALCON (15) (Ms P A H Hartley M W Essterby 7 7
405006 MYSTERIOUS TIMES (12) (Ms M Lingwood B Murry 7 7
22 declared -

Dettori hits 200

-12 declared Hintmum weignt: 7st 7th. True handicap weignts: In Prandstum 7st 5th, The Wed 7st 3th, Scothebury 7st 2th, Morthern Febor 7st 2th, Mosterious Times 6st 12th.
BETTING: 4-1, b Healt, 3-2 Sensin, 5-1 Alband, 7-1 Weet A Minute, 15-2 Nose No Bounds, 9-1 Sto
Clarks, 12-1 Ungent Swift, 14-1 others:
1984: In Good Farth 2 7 13 D R McCabe 9-2 U J Clarky 15 ran
England Clarks.

1984: In Good Parth 2 7 13 D R McCabe 9-2 (J J Quinn) 15 ran FORM GUIDE.

NOSE NO BOUNDS is a juvenite who stays and even Wolverhampton's extended inde was on the sharp side for him when he won a poor race tast time. His earlier second to Tautan Boy et Southwell suggests he has it to do today in view of Tautan Boy's severith to Samilan Br Redcar but Nose No Bounds will be very suited by this mile with its galloring form boosted and, while he wasn't totally convincing at Redcar, he could be on the ungrade. He turned over hot taxounte Consordano and, sure to appreciate the extra furtioning and with the fourth Golden Pond winning a nursery at Pontefract on Monday, another good run is expected. Jo Mell followed two promising runs with an ell-the-way wan from Reinhands at Apr three weeks ago. Reinhandt has been besten in a weak race since but Jo Mell is still a gelding to respect. Alzandt, beaten at Chestar last time, is beck with Dane O'Nell after a Goodwood win from Winter Quarters but the 80 higher mark may find him out, Weet-A-Mingte, like Nose No MAZERIAL, USBUET SE CHIESUET ISSUE WITH, IS DECK WITH LEFT C LYPELL STEET E GOODWOOD WITH THOM Whiter Quarters but the 8th higher mark may find him out. Weet-A-Minde, left Nose No Bounds, has stamma to spare. He took advantage of the drop in cless at Beverley three weeks ago (the second has won a small race since) and Particle Destori will get the best out of him. The bottom weights look highly tred, though better is likely from Urgent Swift, a good second to Vanstung Point (winner since) at Goodwood before tackling the decent mustice of the control of th

| - | | to take the section was in the section of the secti |
|-----|--|--|
| K. | A GO INTERNATIONAL FACTORS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS | good second to Vanishing Point (winner since) at Goodwood before tackling the decent nurs- |
| đ. | 3.30 m 50 000 add 4 for 44 harmy Value 50 000 | ery won by Evening Chime here. Selection: NOSE NO BOUNDS. |
| e . | 3.30 INTERNATIONAL FACTORS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £8,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £6,888 | |
| - • | 1 00000-0 WELSH MILL (13) (D) (D S Hall) Mis M Renety 5 10 0 | |
| - | 2 111230 HARRY BROWNE (9) (6F) (Aks.) R Remoden) Mrs.) Remoden 3 9 5 | A SU MATMONTE CLAIMING STAYES (CLASS D) 52,000 agged |
| | 3 1330U1 ASHOWER (22) (D) (Renothy Cost T D Genron 5 9 3 | 4.30 WALMGATE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added 1m 2f 85yds Penalty Value £6,160 |
| } | | |
| • | 4 012641, ARUNU (10) (D) (I A Southood) S Willers 4 9 3 (Sec) A Daly 13 | 1 051110 MELLOTTE (5) (C) (D) (Ms) G Ruben) Mis M Reveloy 10 9 7 |
| | 5 351103 ROCK THE BARNEY (64) (D) (8F) (Mrs Sam Mexics) P Buggyne 6 9 0 | 2 3/50550 RAMBO'S HALL (5) (0) (8 Deory) Glover 10 9 0 |
| | 6 123631 SOMMERSEY (5) (D) (A J Pecie) Mrs N Macaulay 4 9 0 (5m;R Sharin 18 | 3 0-10030 WESTERN GENERAL (95) (Mrs. James McAllister) Mrss S Hall 4 8 11 |
| | 7 001220 SUMBRY MEMSWECHO (USA) (19) (D) (D C Beta) W Sidney 4 8 13 1 Wildmann (3) 15 | 4 502/316 High PREMIAN (9) U C Pasonsi R Fahey 7 8 8 |
| | 8 25/0-306 STRICELY PERSONAL (USA) (111) (Med Jean Makiney) M. Barnes 5 8 11 | 5 (380)45 SOLDER COVE (USA) (16) (Ladyswood Racing Club) M Meade 5 8 8V Stattery 1 |
| | 9 CC3103 HASTA LA VISTA (19) (D) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 5 8 6 | 6 O BALLYSONERRY (7) (C W Moore) J Parkes 4 8 6 |
| | 10 050350 ZNLAMENT (US) (Mis Am Janis) A Janis 3 8 4 | |
| | 11. 00410-6 EUROFRISST (227) (CD) (BF) (Reymond Gomessill) S Kentevell 6.8.1 | 8 4040 KARIBU (SER) (LIC) (LI-Col W.L. Montesth) P Montesth 486 |
| | 12 3-10260 MERRY MERMAND (120) (120) (As O K Steels) J Bottomiey 5 8 1 A Eddary (3) 21. | 9 5525-21 KATY'S LAD (99) (D) (J W Buster) B McMahon 8 8 6 |
| 3 | 13 640600 MR CHRISTIE (13) (David Marin Partnersho) Mass L Sciolal 3 7 13P Feesey 6 | 10 222230 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (L3) (C C Buckley) Mrs M Reveloy 4 8 6 |
| 2 | | 11 000500 PENDOLINO (10) (an Boots) M Britain 486 |
| _ | 14 66000-0 FAIR AND FANCY (FR) (3) (Ron S Moton) D Historia 4 7 12 | |
| 11 | 15 003416 FRESH LOOK (11) (John Purcel) R Spacer 3 7 12 | 12 1- PEEP O DAY (\$56) (John L Holdroyd) J L Syn: 483 R Lappin 9 |
| r | 16 00-000 FARFELDS PRINCE (122) (Mrs D Barnbroige) D Nicholis 3 7 12 | 13 302200 BOLD TOP (35) (Ars G M Z Spink) B Rotinell 3 8 2 |
| - | 17 500345 ACPELES HEEL (3) (D) (Four J's Syndicate) C Alien 4 7 11 | – 13 declared – |
| ST. | 18 601600 (BNOHO (10) (D) (Anthony White) K Hogs 7 7 10 | BETTING: 2-1 Mellettie, 4-1 Rembo's Hall, 6-1 High Premhan, 8-1 Katy's Lad, 10-1 Western Ges- |
| | 19 350250 SPARKLING ROBERTA (R) (3 A Summers) M Ueher 4 7 9 | eral, Once More For Luck, 12-1 Peep C Day, 14-1 others |
| | 20 063065 LEVEL EDGE (12) (8 Countrard M Hammond 4 7 9 | 1994: Diskette 4 8 5 M Roberts 3-1 (Lox) Huntingdon) 13 r an |
| | 21. 344351. AMATOR'S DREMM (5) (D) (P Bottomley) J Peace 5 7 9 (Sed) B Halligns (5) 19 | FORM GUIDE |
| d | 22 000-603 STORBALESS (10) (D St Clar) P Montests 477D Deathy (3) 14 | Meliottie, beaten only five lengths in the Cambridgeshire last Saturday, will take the beat- |
| _ | -22 decisted - | ing in his present good heart but RAMBO'S HALL might be up to the task, getting 7lb. Some |
| | | rain would help Rambo's Hall, who never really mounted a bid in the Cambridgeshire when |
| ŀ | Minimum weight: 7st 7to, True handicap weight: Stormiess 7st 6to. | (Still Mobild Fish Marieto S Fish, with lieute restly mobile of a bit of Campingsside with |

| | 21. 344351. A/A/TOR'S DREAM (8) (D) (P Bottomie) J Pearce 5 7 9 (Sed | FORM GUIDE |
|---|--|---|
| | 22 000-603 STORMEESS (10) (D St Clar) P Montests 477 D Deathy (3) 14 | Meliottie, besten only five lengths in the Combridgeshire last Saturday, will take the bo |
| | - 22 deciared - | ing in his present good heart but RAMBO'S HALL might be up to the task, getting 7th. So |
| | Minimum weight: 7st 7to, True hundicup weight: Stormiess 7st 6to. | rain would help Rambo's Hall, who never really mounted a bid in the Cambridgeshire wi |
| | SETTING: 8-1 Harry Browne, 9-1 Agunii, 10-1 Ashreez, Sommersby, Hesta La Vista, 12-1 Asistor's | receiving 3th from Melicitie. The weights were the same at Ripon in August when Melici |
| | Dream, Fresh Look, Sunday News's Echo, 14-1 Achilles Heel, Zelastest, 16-1 others | best Vindaloo with Rambo's Hall beaten seven lengths into fifth, but that was still a dec |
| | 1994; Europeus 5 8 6 D Griffiths 7-1 U L Eyra) 21 xan | effort by Rambo's Hall and this 4th advantage today could make all the difference. Prior |
| | FORM GUIDE | the Cambridgeshire, Rambo's Hali was a fine fifth to Akil at Doncester when the good to a |
| | SOMMERSBY has a winning opportunity at the weights on his all-weather ability and the | surface suited him. Western General would also like some rain. He's returning from a r |
| | change is taken he will put it together on turf today. He promised to be a decent sort in his | but he goes well fresh as shown by his Pontefract win on his reappearance. But he was |
| • | days with Alec Stewart and his handscap rating is 2th lower today compared to a very smooth | lengths behind Mellottie in Bettergeton's race on fast ground at Doncaster in July and is o |
| | was from Environmentalist at Wolverhampton last Saturday right when he was strongly sup- | a pound better off. High Premium is back in the form that saw him win for Lynda Ramso |
| | ported. Welsh MRE was decent with Lord Huntington and, though his form was disappoint- | and he won in this grade from 19 rivels at Ayr before finding a big weight against him i |
| | with Nigel Tirkier, he could still be anything after a pleasing first run for Mary Reveley at | handcap at Newmarket. Course Fishing and Katy's Lad may not be up to the task, w |
| | Haydock a formight ago. Further rain would help Freets Look, who is on a good mark after | Once More For Luck may also find the principals too hot. Selection: RAMBO'S HALL. |
| i | beating Last Corner in a claimer at Yarmouth when with Fulke Johnson Houghton. Aviator's | |
| | Dream was fit from a hurdles win when landing a weak race at Brighton last week and he's | 5.00 AINSTY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added 3YO 1 |
| | at the right end of the handicap. Ayumil won at Haydock 10 days ago and the form was | 3.UU 2f 85vds Penalty Value £6.108 |
| • | boosted when the second. Lord Hasbe, won on the same course over the weekend, Hasta | |
| 1 | La Vista is another with cleims after lending a nice little touch for connections at Ripon | 1 0 MODALIAJ (28) (Shelift Ahmed At Meltourn) M Javes 9 0 |
| , | three outings ago, while Mr Christie takes the eye as an interesting outsider after contest- | 2 MOTRAGBER (189) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maksoum) J Gosden 9 0 |
| • | ing bester races then this of late. Ashover and Rock The Barney are running well enough | 3 PALACE GLARD (Crea Wal) G Englis 9 0 M Block |
| | to consider, while Sanday News a Echo best Stoproventate at Newcastle in May and her | 4 0-0 SOLATRUM (170) (Frank A Ferrant) M Pipe 9 0 Pend Edden |
| | latest start at Cattanck was her first for three months, Selection: SOMMERSBY, | 5 O TELMO (125) U Homeschei C Wall 90 Outbea |
|) | | 6 40 ALL THE TIME (180) (Cap. J Macdonald-Buchanani P Cole 8 9 |
| | GREEN HOWARDS CUP (NURSERY HANDICAP) (CLASS C) | 8 0 SRCK COURT (112) (R Johnson Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 89 |
| | 4.00 GREEN HOWARDS COP (NORSENT HARDICAP) (CLASS C) | 9 D422 STEP ALOFT (16) (8F) (The Queen) Lord Huntington 8 9 |
| | | 2 nume over seen of feet had to a description to the property to a grander over the contract of the latter. |

BETTING: 6-4 Step Aloft, 2-1 Motalia Brick Court, 14-1 others 1994: Pesola 3 8 9 R Cochrana 5-1 (J Gosdan) 8 ran

| 3 | 306600 230044 122120 | Baldied. 7f Penatty Value £7,952 CELESTIAL KEY (USA) (5) (6) (AJ) Brothsid M Johnson 5 9 7 EMERICADES (KS) (C) (D) (BASS Sophie Oppenheiment R Chenton H NOD (49) (CO) (Brain Norder) M Carriactio 5 9 0 CHRANO'S LAD (6) (0) (M M Faulger) C Dayer 6 8 13 Ged ORANGE PLACE (378) (D) (George Michael Archer) T I Naughton | 1 Chemock 6 |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| _ | LU | DLOW | 3.20 RADIOS |

HYPERION 2.20 Bungee Jumper 2.50 Kelburne Lad

(nap) 4.20 Zajira 4.50 Blessed Oliver GOING: Firm.

Right-hand rouge. Chase course has sharper bends than hur-

3.20 Badastan 3.50 STATION EXPRESS

dies CHRINE.

■ COMEN' IN NW of LOWIN OF A 18. Ladiow station (Hereford — Shrewis-bury line) (Im. ADMISSION): Club 5 14 (accompanied under-16a free). Tuttersalls 50: Crurse 55. CAR PARK: Free. SIS All races

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. WINNERS IN THE LINE SEVEN LOSS MAIN.

LONG-DETANCE RUNNERS: Aerodynamic (2.50) & Lets Go Now (2.50) and (33 miles by Mr. L Jewell from Sutton Valence, Kent. 2.20 LUDFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m

2.50 INVERSHIN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 4f

.20 RADIO SHROPSHIRE STAYERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 3m 2f 110yds — a proportion — a proportion — Agricum weights: Caucidestone Sci Stb. Bright Sapphire Sci Stb. Dottone Sci Zb.
BETTING: 4-8 Budantas, 11-4 Jeweni, 8-1 Chucidestone, Dottonel, 14-1

3.50 SHROPSHIRE STAR SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 2m 5f 110yds 40065 THROWER (153) P Bers 4 11 10 R Datacooky
503021 GOLDEN MADIAMED (173) F Jordan 3 11 5 July
10052143 GREEN'S SEAGO (USA) (12) J A Haris 7 10 6 A Dobble
005-210 STATION EXPRESS (24) (1) 3 Used (1) 10 2 Gey Lavis (3)
POSPTO CASTLENCHARDIONE (14) K Budgester 10 10 — Participate (7) 3P-P3A3 GELEST (29) D Carry 7 100 ...

um weight: 10st. True horidicap weights: Hegistory 9:1 12b, Hami To Get RET TIME: 11-4 Goldon Madjambe, 7-2 Station Express, 9-2 Green's Sec-ga, 8-1 Thrown, 8-1 Hard To Bot, 10-1 Githert, 12-1 Castion charaldag, 14-1 Magazory

4.20 OVREVOLL MARES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

WINCANTON

2.10 Jaraab 2.40 Bankroil 3.10 Cavina 3.40 Wise Approach 4.10 King Of Canvey Is 4.40 Mr Copyforce

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

Eight-hand, galloping course. Run-to of 200yd.

Course is NE of town on B3081. Templecombe station 4m. AD-MTSSION: Members 312 (Junior Members, 17 to 22 years, 56);
Tattersulls 58; Course (and cars) 54. CAR PARK: Prec

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Carine (2.10) & Simular (4.40) have been sens 174 miles by N Graham Irom Newmarket, Sulfolk. 2.10 ORCHARD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m

266- MRAAB (264) G Love 4 12 0 OP 6 JAMA SHEEVE (129) Turk 4 10 1 S McNell 1540 LITTLE HOOLIGAM (2) 6 Edwards 4 10 0 D Bridgwater 0P 0 MOUNTAIN (27) R Pice 5 10 0 A P McCoy 4F000 WESSEX MILORIO (407) J Bernest 10 10 0 1 Harvey FERENS RALL (12) M Roberts 8 10 0 ...

2.40 OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 3m 1f 110yds 31/1P3-1 BANKSOLL (33) P Hotos 8 11 10 ______ 6 Tormey 39-1225 Schild (16) 19ne 12 11 7 ______ I Marphy

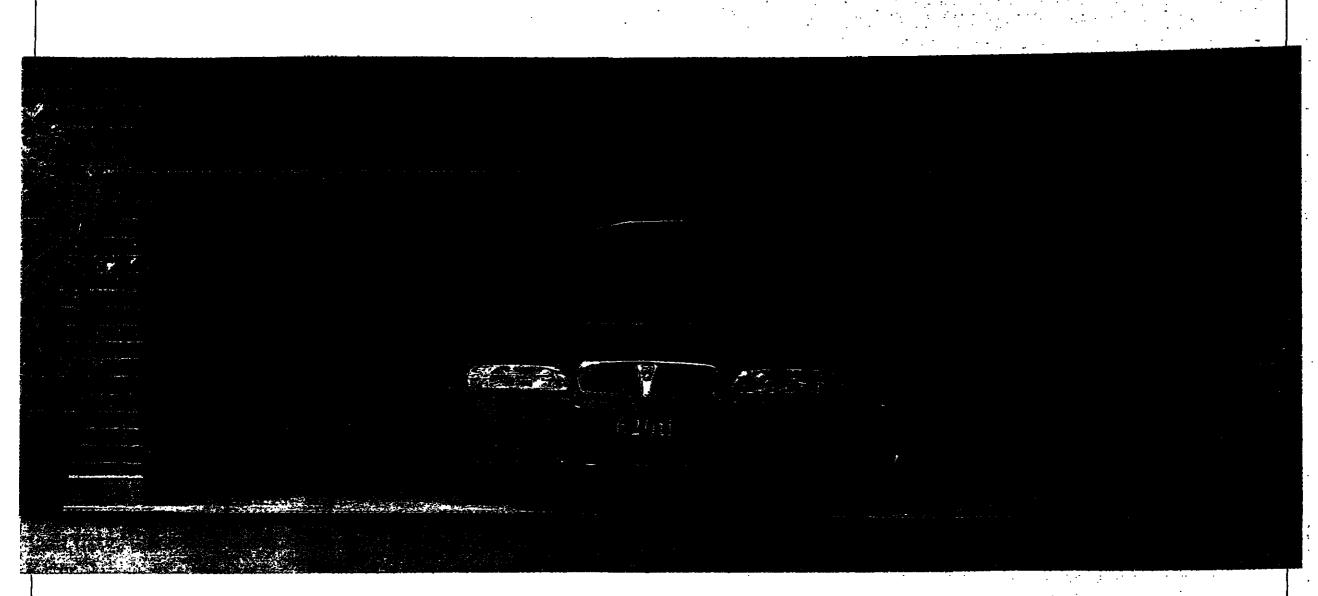
| CLASS E; ZEGOV ERROR STIT | ... | Wyer CLARE-DE-LINE P Neroins 5 11 1 ... | A P Nicby P5335 EMPAL MESS (LSS) C Pophem 7 11 1 ... | O showne SPP LAURES FLUTTER (252) Ms P Duffeld 6 11 1 ... | P Rolley O440 PURBECK POLITY (258) R Ainer 5 11 1 ... | Mr P Neroing (7) OGPOP RENT DAY (LTS) | Multino 5 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S Currin (3) Nichola 6 11 1 ... | S 3.40 AXMINSTER FROM AXMINSTER HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 2m 5f

3.10 HATHERLEIGH MARES MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 6f

-6 declared - Mohamm weight: 10st. The handles weight: Romany Creek Sr. 12th. RETINGS 11-10 Wiles Approach, 11-4 Greek Meast, 6-1 Greek Gesto, 7 1 Feetbel Dreems, 10-1 Romany Creek, 14-1 Coole Dodger

4.40 WINCANTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 6f

(18)



THE ROVER 620ti KEEPS 37 LAND SPEED RECORDS UNDER ITS BONNET. (BUT KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT.)

"A rather reserved rocket," was how Dr Jekyll described the Rover 620ti in a Top Gear road test.

Two paragraphs later, he encountered the turbo-charged T16 engine that scooped up a hatful of records during a special 24 hour marathon test.

At which point a certain Mr Hyde took over.

"This Rover is a beast. Honestly."

Tut tut Mr Hyde. "It's a sleek but discrete saloon for those who want to hurry but don't need to shout."

Oh really Doc? "It's got traction control and stonking great 16 inch alloys with Pirelli P-Zero tyres..."

To the joy, no doubt, of psychologists everywhere, the same revealing contradictions appear whenever the 620ti is reviewed.

It possesses an unerring ability to separate the man from the boy.

(For the man, we also include our security coded RDS radio/cassette, vehicle immobiliser and perimetric security system.

Two years' free servicing and warranty* For a free test drive or a brochuse phone now on 0345 186 186

For the boy, take a glance at our Silverstone sports leather seats.)

As final proof, we'll conclude with two more road testers' gems from the 620ti's press-cuttings file.

"Subtlety is such an underrated virtue." The good Doctor again.

"It's a scorcher." Guess who?



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after 75 minutes against Colom-bia at Wembley last month, is

the obvious choice, but Ven-

ables may opt for one of his two

uncapped newcomers, Gareth

But with Gascoigne - re-

stored to the starting line-up last

month for the first time since

March 1994 - missing again,

England's midfield resources

David Platt and Peter Beard-

sley are also on the injured list;

John Barnes is on compassion-

ate leave; David Batty has been

dropped, while Paul Ince is yet

England may train

rugby's new world

Steve Bale reports

An England player who keeps his place all season can expect

what amounts to a match fee of

£6,500, and the men of Marlow

are very happy with their match fees, too: they pay £5 a week without quibble. Neither do

they quibble that their interna-

tional counterparts receive so

"No one begrudges them

much while they must give.

what they've got," Dave Vick-

ers, the Marlow captain, said.

"We know the pressures they

face but there's not a single per-

son here who wouldn't swap

places. Our guys put in as much

commitment as they can but

when they roll up in their Fies-

tus it does open their eyes:
"We were already exposed to

Which is what you would ex-

way Marlow's practical aspirations have nothing what-

ever to do with professionalism

other than in a figurative sense.

The newly professional Eng-land players need be in no than for last season's Grand but Wales yesterday moved al-

The Five Nations matches

against Wales and Ireland in the

new year are also guaranteed to

fill Twickenham, and when the

Navy are added, the RFU's

take over six months will be a

tional A teams, or B teams as

There was a time when na-

staggering £11m.

Specifically, they want to de-

on their turf but

are extremely stretched.

Marlow are

happy to pay

their way

ment to what is now becoming an is still an age away.

team, it is no different in prac- tas and see Victor [Ubogu]

tice today from how it was coming along in his yellow Lo-

On Tuesday England trained the contrast before they went

behind closed doors because of professional, so we're used to it

the kerfuffle over Carling. On and we're not resentful. But

Monday Marlow had trained - in since they've moved to being

ence," Steve Blake, Marlow's pect of professionals, and any-

land players need be in no than for last season's Grand

doubt about the Rugby Foot-ball Union's capacity to pay their representations of the pre-Christmas West-

their wages after yesterday's ern Samoa match will bring in

disclosure that next month's £1.7m and is itself almost sold

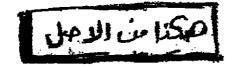
The all-scated 74,000 who will attend the match, which is Cup final, London v Samoa,

sold out, is 2,000 more than Middlesex Sevens and Army v

South Africa match at the re- out already.

don't drop the ball; apart from a very élite group."

Southgate and Steve Stone.



to be recalled after pulling out of the Umbro Cup squad for

on calling up a replacement, say-ing: "Most likely I will wait un-

til tonight's games are out of the

way and then clear up any squad

rebuilding tomorrow before the

Gascoigne's injury is expect-ed to sideline him for at least a

for Rangers' Champions

League match against Juventus

Walter Smith, the Rangers

rest of the players gather."

Venables will delay a decision

personal reasons.

on 18 October.

Football

Terry Venables is facing a se-lection dilemma following Paul

Gascoigne's withdrawal from

the England squad for next

Wednesday's friendly in Norway.

squad yesterday after straining a thigh muscle in Rangers' 2-1

win over Motherwell on Tues-

day, leaving the England coach

short of an experienced re-

Newcastle's Robert Lee, who

was substituted for Gascoigne

ngland's players have begun training again, the frequency of their meetings at

Marlow evidence of an appro-priately professional commit-

officially professional game.

Marlow, incidentally, is

where a deflated Dennis Eas-

by, then Rugby Football Union

president, announced the rein-

statement of Will Carling last

May at the conclusion of the

"old farts" affair. Carling and

company will converge on

Buckinghamshire about once a

formight, play half a dozen Tests, and be paid up to £40,000

In this case the juxtaposition

of club and country produces a

nice contrast. On the one hand,

we have the evidence of how

rugby has changed - but only for

the few chosen by the England

selectors. On the other, if Eng-

lish rugby means the game as a

whole rather than the England

when England first came to

that, there's not a lot of differ-

grandly titled chairman of com-

munications, said. Blake plays

scrum-half, and occasionally

hooker, in the third XV so he

developed Twickenham will

break records for attendance

and receipts. writes Steve

used to be the capacity when

most spectators stood, and

14.000 more than last season's

maximum while work pro-

reded on the West Stand. Bross takings from the match

may have been joking.

Marlow last year.

for their season's work.

Gascoigne pulled out of the

operate theft

lug pellet peiseig ment in piders shut saled

What I

DOM: NOTE:

12.0

en, Killer

Miles de

∄ (€)... **hooti**ng error Euro. Service of the servic وجوائم

Mariat record

mail:: 古 收息 Marie 1 1 1 1 1 fight to Mary 17 - 100 Ta 1.

施分 一 二 effar.

two years.

that his game has improved by

may have to move up yet another gear to thwart Sam Torrance and Bernhard Langer and finish at the head of the Volvo Order of Merit for the third successive year.

in Berlin today, Montgomerie said: "Two years ago I was £50,000 behind Nick Faldo going into the Valderrama Masters, the last tournament of the counting the Ryder Cup and I'm scason, and I won it and finished very tired," Montgomeric said. win here to stay in the race."

Mirgel Indurain, of Spain, five

yesterday, sweeping to victory in

the road time trial at the World

Championships in Colombia.

time. Since then I've got better rama I was so far ahead in the money I only had to hit the first ball off the tee and I was No 1 again.

"Now, with just this tournament and Valderrama to come, I have to beat off the challenge of Sam Torrance and Bernhard Langer to stay at the top. Montgomerie is £980 ahead of Torrance and £128,687 clear of Langer, who moved back into the frame by winning the Eu-

"Originally I didn't intend to play in Berlin because this will be my seventh straight week

the Colombian Andes in 55min

30.4sec. He finished nearly 50

seconds of his nearest rival,

compatriot Abraham Olano,

56:19.1. Germany's Uwe Peschel

It was quickly clear that In-

was third in 57:33.9.

European No 1 for the first "But I've set my heart on being No 1 again so I shall play the last two counting tournaments -plus the World Match Play and Dunhill Cup - and then have a 10-week holiday." His wife, Eimear, is expecting their secand child in January.

Torrance believes that Langer will be a big threat in Berlin. "Bernhard always plays well in his own country and, after last week, there is no knowing what he might do," he said. "I only finished joint 24th last week but in a way it was a relief not to be in contention. I think it refreshed me, and this week could

be my turn." Langer said: "It looks like the No 1 spot will be between Monty and Sam because I have to

Indurain conquers the Andes 24:21.0, compared to Olano's 25:24.7. Despite his success in long events, the closest Indurain had come to a world ti-

The time trial was introduced at the World Championships durain, who started last, would only last year, when it was won kilometre course from Paipa to win the race comfortably as he by Britain's Chris Boardman,

France, won his first world title who finished the course in the was in 1993, when he was

on to their slim lead over the defending champions, China, with the United States third Tunja through the mountains of completed the first 21km in who is currently injured.

McCoist, who was named in Scotland's squad for next week's friendly in Sweden, is expected to withdraw from the national side, while Gary McAllister is also doubtful for the trip to Stock-

Venables must cope without Gascoigne

manager, who also lost striker Ally McCoist against Mother-

well with a groin strain, is hope-

ful both will be fit to face the

Italian champions. "The club

doctor has said that both could

be out for two weeks and that

would obviously take us up to

the Juventus match," he said.

But we will wait and see how

they respond to treatment."

holm, after picking up a knock in Leeds' Coca-Cola Cup victory at Notts County on Tuesday.

Roy Keane looks certain to miss the Republic of Ireland's Group Six European Championship qualifier against Latvia in Dublin next Wednesday. The Manchester United midfielder played only 37 minutes of Tues-day's Coca-Cola Cup second leg at York after being relegated to substitute with a suspected recurrence of hernia trouble.

United feared Keane would need a similar operation to the one he underwent during the confirmed that Keane only had a stomach strain - ruling him out for around two weeks.

"I put Roy on the bench purely as a safeguard, but I had to bring him on. However, he is clearly going to need some time with this," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "I would think he is a doubt for Ireland. We will really have to monitor it, but he's struggling."
Keane will be the second
United player to pull out of Jack
Charlton's squad if Ferguson's

withdrawal of Denis Irwin with knee trouble. "I will speak to Jackie Charlton and go through it with him," Ferguson said. "We are sympathetic to them in this particular instance because it's such an important game for Ireland. We would want to assist

them in every way we can."

Keane will probably miss the
Manchester derby at Old Trafford on 14 October and the trip to Chelsea the following week, although United are hopeful he will be available for Bryan Robson's return to Old Trafford with intuition is correct, following the Middlesbrough on 28 October.

Ball not ready to renounce Rösler

sport

GUY HODGSON

Manchester City, who need to sell players before they can buy new ones to help lift them from the bottom of the Premiership, have resisted an offer for their most marketable asset, Uwe

Rösler. Sheffield Wednesday had a old for the German striker reected yesterday, although the reaction at Maine Road hinted that the subject might not be wholly closed.

"The approach from Wed-

nesday was turned down flat," Alan Ball, the City manager, said. "I've told them there is no chance of him leaving... at least for the time being." Everton are also reported to be interested in Rösler, who has said he wishes to stay with City but who has yet to sign an improved con-tract. He also criticised Ball's tactics last week, saying too much emphasis was being placed on defence.

City's neighbours United, meanwhile, are showing no inclination to rush to the market as a reaction to their being knocked out of the Uefa and Coca-Cola cups in eight days.

Their manager, Alex Fergu-son, has attempted to sign Tottenham's Darren Anderton and Ajax's Marc Overmars but rejections there have led to circumspection, even though the club announced annual profits of £20m on Monday.

"We've always known we've had the money," Ferguson said, "The financial results don't change anything. We've tried for one or two players but nothing has emerged since that has interested us. In one way going out of the cups eases the situation. With just League games to concentrate on until the New Year there isn't the same drain on resources."

Celtic have signed the versatile Dunfermline Athletic youngster, Jackie McNamara, for £600,000. The Fife club are £3.5m in debt and agreed to sell after receiving an increased offer.

Celtic are to impose strict restrictions on supporters travelling to France for their European Cup-Winners' Cup second round, first leg match with Paris St Germain in an attempt to minimise the risk of disorder. Only season-ticket holders and corporate clients will be eligible for tickets for the 19 October match.

Joey Beauchamp has re-joined Oxford United, 16 months after joining West Ham in a £1m deal. The 24-year-old was unable to settle at Upton Park and was transferred to Swindon for £800,000 a few weeks later without playing a game. He returned to Oxford yesterday for a fee of £300,000.

The men of Marlow - (from left) coach Lindsay Renwick, captain Dave Vickers and Brendon Lock - fork out £5 a week to play

with a five-year campaign to reach the giddy heights of Na-

tional League Five South. public, if the public had been inpaid they be taken on an almost as they are now in the Southlerested – on precisely the same unapproachable status. I no
unapproachable status. I no
longer feel as if I could just go last season lost their place in
up and talk to them. They are
South-West Two after having two points docked for inadvertently fielding an unregistered player), in effect the eighth division, this would require promotion three times in five years.

The notion of paying players while this is going on is not one that crosses the minds of those

most as far from that concept

as possible when 12 interna-

tionals were among those

picked to play the Fijians when

Kevin Gallagher has had

surgery to stop internal bleed-

ing 11 days after a punch gave

him a broken nose and cheek-

bone and a ruptured vein in the

Courage Second Division

match against Waterloo. "This is the worst incident I have

heard about in the whole of my

career," Clive Woodward, the

velop their already well-en- in authority over Marlow. How dowed ground in conjunction in the world, even in this affluent part of that country, could they afford it? Yet, far as they may be from rugby's new professionalism or even its Fifth Di-

vision South, they can foresee a day when they might just have to: For now, the first team are lucky to get 200 people watching them but there is potential of a different kind: Marlow provide a game of rugby for more than 600 people of all ages every weekend. "We are a major club in terms of numbers; I

An investigation by Waterloo

got nowhere because no one

would own up. Keith Alderson,

the club secretary, said: "It ap-

staff have spoken to all our play-

ers and they have all denied any

WMLES A (v Fill, Bridgend, 21 Oct; J Thomas (Lanelli); A Harris (Seansea), & Jones, & Thomas (Bridgend), W Proctor (Lianell); A Devices (Cardiff), P John (Portypride, capt; A Levis (Cardiff), R McBryde, S John (Lianelli), & Prosser (Portypridef), & Moore (Seansea), A Gibbs (Revendegs), & Williams (Neath), O Lloyd (Lanell). Replacements: M Taylor (Swansea), M McCarthy (Lianelli), R Howley (Endgend), I. Mastoe (Cardiff), A Lamerton (Lianelli), C Wyatt (Neath).

by again."

involvement."

the country," said Peter Bradley, who at 44 doubles as club chairman and third-team lock.

"But at our level the incentive to play for Marlow comes because you live in or near the town. We play the same game as the England players but the difference is they are professional athletes and for us to pay players would require a steady, certain income we don't have at present."

Marlow RFC costs around £70,000 a year to run, roughly two England players' contracts. The club has five pitches, a superb doubt if there's a bigger club in Thames side location, and was re- Blake said. "I wouldn't have a I missed the bandwagon."

sponsible for the early rugby education of Paul Burnell, the Scotland prop, and two England A players, Matthew Dawson and

Justyn Cassell of Northampton. But with them, and with the occasional presence of the Eng-land squad using its facilities, the big-time connection ends, even if Marlow officials are wondering if and when their amateur club may have to consider a modest step towards professionalism.

"We are ambitious and we will need at some point to accommodate players financially,"

pact on us, but that's not to say it won't develop as we move up the league." In that case spare a thought for Marlow's coach, Lindsay Renwick, a London Scot who

Photograph: Robert Hallam

problem with that at all." Nor

would Vickers: "The freedom to

pay players has very limited im-

won one cap against Romania in 1989 and realises regretfully

that he was born too soon, "It's interesting that one per cent of the playing population effectively dictates the rules to the other 99 per cent ... but it's still a shame

S Africa send Twickenham records tumbling French open money talks

did this should never play rug- French rugby union internationals yesterday opened discussions with Bernard Lapasset, president of the French federation (FFR) about what payments they can receive this they begin their tour at Brid-gend on 21 October.

The London Irish lock

pears there was a fracas, but there is no way anything can be substantiated. Our coaching season. "We shall merely ask him to allow us to be involved in commercial operations without asking for the federation's approval," prop Laurent Benezech said. approval,"

France publicly rejected professionalism despite the In-ternational Rugby Board's decision to open up the sport. The players are against formal contracts at either Test or club level, but want to extend the existing "charter of high-level players", which has dictated added. "There is no way we can payments to French internationals in recent seasons. The 50 to 60 players involved want Lapasset to renegotiate that char- contracts worth over £100,000 ter, which the FFR president a year. Lapasset denied a ruadmits "can be considered as a mour that the payments a form of contract".

Lapasset, also chairman of the IRB, added that he was in favour of players receiving fixed payments for each selection. plus win bonuses and fees for promotion campaigns organised by the FFR.

He also said the FFR had only Fr140m (£18m) a year to pay clubs, officials and players. About Fr20m would be invested in paying the players, he Benezech said.

compete with what Australian ferring to reports of Wallaby French player is allowed to receive annually would be limited to Fr300.000

The main bone of contention between the FFR and the players is likely to be the intention by some internationals to launch an association to defend their rights. "We want to create an association of players to respond quickly and efficiently to the queries of sponsors,"

TODAY'S NUMBER

6.9m

The number of US dollars (£4.5m) on offer in prize money at the Australian Tennis Open in January. The sinreceive £281,000, a rise of 17 percent on 1995.

TOULOUSE MEN'S INDOOR TOURNAMENT

TOURDUSE MEN'S PRODOR TOURNAMENT First round; F Santon (Fin 1st. 18 Barthe; Fin 6-4 6-3; F Delwid (Beb Ix M Simner (Gen) 6-2 6-2; M Rosset (Swit) Ix D Norman (Beh 6-2 7-6; A Boetsch (Fin 1st A Chesnako: (Ruzi 6-3 6-4; N Nucera (Slovat) Ix G Forget (Fin 7-6 6-3;) Van Herst (Beh 0 1; Sementh (Neth 1-5 % 0. Second round: Delwid Ix J Bjorkman (Swe) 7-6 4-6 6-3; Rosset Ix R Renchery (IXS) 6-7 6-1 6-4; Nucera Ix G Forget (Fin 7-6 6-3

EMOPEAN WOMEN'S INDOOR TOURNAMENT Carrick) First reandt C Rubni (US) by R. Astams (US) 6-2-6-2. Second round: 1 Rugs (S4) by H Sukora (C: Pean 6-3 7-5: B Schulz: (Nem) by L Raymonal (US) 3-6-3-6-2; M Perce (Fr) by P Schnyder (Sent) 6-1 6-2.

LIA ALITURAN SATELLITE (Nottlegh

Table tennis

Montgomerie looks to stay on top

they were then known, were Exiles coach, said. "Whoever

From his position on top of the and better. Last year at Valder-European money list, Colin Monigomerie said yesterday up to 30 per cent over the past However, the Scot feels he

Preparing for the Mercedes German Masters, which starts ropean Open in Dublin last

Compulsory collapse for the Russians Gymnastics

Leonid Arkaev, Russia's team manager, blamed himself for the dismal performance by his side – the pre-tournament favourites in the men's team event on the third day of the World Championships at Sabae, Japan, yesterday. Arkaev admitted his team

now had very little chance of winning a medal. "They may have ignored the importance of the compulsories. I am ready to take responsibility for this as the delegation chief," he said. Russia slumped to 11th place while Belarus, equally optimistic

of gold, fared little better, lying eighth after last year's champion, Ivan Ivankov, fell during the horizontal bar exercise. However, Belarus were boosted by the performance of Vitaly Scherbo, winner of six Olympic golds in 1992. He registered a total 56.674 points, the third highest individual score. Russia's Evgeny Chabaev, who won the World Student Games overall individual title in August, scored 54.925. After the completion of the compulsory section, Japan held

SPORTING DIGEST tadmintoo INTERNATIONAL MATCH (Maidenhood, final match of sarios of skd; China 3 England 2 (Englands first). March singles: Provides but to 5 Quan 11-15 15-12 15-6. Man's doubles: N Porting and J Robertson but Xappeng and W 115-6 15-4. Weatson's singles: T Groves lost to 7 timp 2-11 1-11. Weatson's singles: G Covers and Hardsley lost to 0 Hong and W U 7-15 10-15. Missed doubles: J Quinn and S Hardsler ist Z Feng and 2 M 6-15 15-9 15-4. England win series 4-2.

Tony Peña hit a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the 13th inning to give the Indians a dramatic 5-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox in Cleveland's first play-off game in 41 years. Cleveland, who twice rallied from behind, take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five discion play-off servers with their first not-

ming, take a 1-0 sear in the best-of-live division play-off senses with their first post-season victory in 47 years.
NATIONAL LEAGUE Play-offs (first games is best-of-five ceries): Continual 7 Los Angeles 2: Alianza 5 Colorado 4.
AMERICAN LEAGUE Play-offs (first games is best-of-five series): New York 9 Seattle 6; Cleve-land 5 Boston 4 (13 Innings).

Basketball David Ransom yesterday stepped down as the chief executive of the English Bas-ketball Association, after four years in

CTICKET

EYELAND A TEAN ITIMERARY FOR TOUR OF PAKSTAN (Party leases 26 Oct): 1 None Pakstan Croier Board XI (one-day match) (Keach).

3: Pakstan Croier Board XI (one day) (Thatia), 5-9: Combried XI (our days) (Irrach), 11-14: Pakstan Croier Board XI (our days) (Larach), 11-14: Pakstan Croier Board XI (our days) (Larach), 12-17-21: Patron's XI (four days) (Salkot), 30 Nov-4 Dear Second "Teat" (they days) (Pashawar), 15 First one-day international (Pashawar), 18: Second one-day international (Pashawar), 12: Second one-day international (Pashawar), 12: Py to Islamphed, 22: Depart for London Gatwick, Dearmond Hamper, they former Wilest In-Desmond Haynes, the former West In-dies captain, has been appointed Sus-sex's first-team coach on a three-year contract. The 39-year-old, who played in 116 Tests for his country, will take up his new position before the start of next season.

Matthew Maynard, the former England

of Giamorgan for the 1996 season. He moves up from vice-captain to succeed Hugh Morris, who stepped down at the end of last season.

Football

Rarth Rovers' Uefa Cup second round, first leg match against Bayern Munich will take place at Hiberman's Easter Road ground on Tuesday 17 October, instead of in Germany. The reverse leg will be played on Tuesday 31 October.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coes-Cole Cup second material second legs Development 1 (10). TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coest-Cole Cup ecocole from a second legs Bournemouth 1 (Odbury 120) Worlood 1 (Bleesley 129) farber extra
litte, aggregase 2-2. Worloof with 6-5 on penaltest; Charitors 3 Mexicos 21. Lesuam 79, Robinson 97) Wintbledon 3 (Holdsworth 31, pen 81.
Earte 46) (set, Cheruthou with 8-7 on aggregate);
Iosaich 1 (Thomsen 25) Stockpon 2 (Amstrong
82, Carmon 1050 (act, Stockpon at 3-2 at aggregate); Queen's Park Rangers 2 (Ready 70.
Gallen 93) Oxford Urd 1 (Robinson 12) (act, QPR
with 3-2 on aggregate);
TRANSFER: Nicky Colgain (goalheeper)
Chelsea to Millwaff (loon).

GOIF

WOMEN'S HOME INTERNATIONAL CHAMPFONSHIP (Wrestham): England v Scotland
(Eng nemes first): Foursonees; Hell and LWaton to A Rose and L Nicholson 4 and 3, E Duggeby and E Fields bt L Roschagh and A Lang 3
and 2, E Roschiffe and R Supplies to I Fore and
S McMester 4 and 3, Foursonees: England 3
Septimal 0, Singless: Hell haked with Rose:
Watton halved with H Monaghar; J Oliver to
Nicholson 4 and 3; Fields bt Nodungh 3 and
2; Stupplies lost to McMester have noises S Lombert lost to Ford wo and one. Singless: England
6 Scotland 3, leviand v Wales (Id names (Irst):
Foursonees: E Rose Power and H Kennagh lost
to I. Dermott and B Jones 1 hole, Y Cassaliy and
2, E Hagins and A O'Sulincon by R Stant and
2, E Hagins and A O'Sulincon by R Stant and
2. E Hagins and A O'Sulincon by R Stant and S Faragen bt V Thomas and D Rachards 3 and 2. E Hegans and A O'Sultinon bt K Start and E Pligran 5 and 5. Foursolmest Indiand 2 Wittless 1. Power lost to Dermott 2 and 1; Rayanagh lost Jones 4 and 3; A Coffey halved with Thomas, D McCarthy lost to L Daws one hole, Cassady bt Szark 5 and 3; Hegans bt Rachards 4 and 3. Singlest Ireland 23/s Wales 33/s. Match result Ireland 43/s Wales 43/s.

Gymnastics Gymmastics
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Subse, Japan):
Leading mon'ts individual standings after compulsoriases 1 L. Xacchuang (2N) 56.98 795; 2
H Tanska (Japan) 55.800; 3 V Scherbo (Bala)
56.674. Leading women's individual standings after compulsories: 1 G Goggen (Rom)
38.795pts; 2 D Kochenkon (Rus) 38.762; 3
S Miler (US) 38.668. Man's team event: Standings after completing compulsoriad: 1 Japan282.060ps; 2 Chris 282.048; 3 US 280.336. Selected: 17 Britain 270.600; 24 Ireland 190.425.

Just three days before the start of the new National League season, the Hockey Association Council yesterday voted to change the League structure for the 1996/97 season. The First Dr vision will comprise 12 clubs, playing home and away, and a Second Division of 24 clubs, playing each other once

Pools news

LTTLENGOUS biviDENOS for matches played 30 September: Treble chance: 24pts £38,401.70. 23 £358.05. 22 £27.45. 2 £7.20. 20 £1.60, Four draws; £13.95. 10 homes: £458.00. Five aways: £202.45. VERNORS: Treble chance: 24pts £12,750.20. 23 £161.10, 22 £13.50, 21 £4.10, 10 homes: £1,958.00. Five everys: £37.75. 22(1503.00. Five everys: 13 (75. 22) 1241.85. 22 (23.00. 21 50.60. Easy size £25.80. Four draws: £32.20. Eight homes: £48.40. Four aways: £34.20. Cools galors (pad on 158 galors): £2.10.

Salling Rupert Murdoch, the Australian media

magnate, has added sailing to his tele-vised sports by backing plans to launch a racing circuit for 18-foot skills in Britain.

THAILAND CLASSIC (Bangkok) Second IMALAND GLASSIC (BARGKIN) SECOND rounds S Hendry (Scot b. P Ebdon (Eng 5-4; 1) Higgins (Scot bt A McManus (Scot 5-4; 0 Finbow (Eng bt J Wattens (Then 5-4; J Parrott (Eng bt T Drago (Mate) 5-4. Quarter-finalist Hendry bt Griffiths 5-0.

6-3 6-3; N Namer (GBT) or A Uniospectivel >-7 7-5 6-1; O Barabanschikova (Bela) bit I Abe (GB) 6-4 6-4; C Taylor (GB) bit M Wichbrandr (Swe 6-4 6-1; S Finer (Swe) bit S Tse (GB) 6-0 6-3; S Smith (GB) bit A Hopmans (Neth) 6-4 6-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

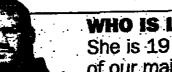
PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Botton Wenerers v Eventon (7.0); Derby County v Not-ngham Forest (7.0); Shaffield Wednesday v dere's v Everton (7.0); Derby Courrly v Not-tingham Forest (7.0); Shaffield Wednesday v West Bromeich Albion (7.0); Notits Courrly v Traimmer Rovers (7.0); Second Division: Brack-ford City v Coventry City (7.0); Sunderland v Preston (7.0); York v Hull City (7.0); Third Di-vision: Stockport Courty v Chester (G. 45). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Southampton v Warford (at Steple-escod).

ice hockey Speedway

PREMIER LEAGUE: Inswich v Peterborough (7.30); Middlestrough v Glasgow (7.30); Shel-field v Poole (7.45). Other sports

GOLP: Women's home internationals (Wreshern) TEMPS: Man's and women's swelter tournon

THE TRIALS OF TOMMY MORRISON



WHO IS LIZZIE JELFS?

She is 19 and the best Briton in one of our major sports. Which one?

Davies plans return to union at Cardiff

Rugby Union Correspondent

Jonathan Davies met with Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, yesterday and eximmediately to rugby union if Warrington could be persuaded to release him from the remaining 21 months of his rugby league contract.

There was even a suggestion signed - albeit provisionally -

set that news of the meeting of the Davieses had leaked out. It is clearly a sensitive matter to be talking to one club in one code while contracted to another in another.

Davies, who spent his senior union career with Neath and Llanelli, has also been linked with Harlequins, It would be a historic day if the transition took place and, though he is nearly 33 and has been gone nearly six that the stand-off had already years, by far the most encour-

bility would have been unthinkable. Davies's way has been cleared by the International Rugby Football Board's acceptance last weekend of a free gangway from rugby league into the newly professionalised rugby union and already the Australian lock Garrick Morgan

has taken advantage.
The Rugby Football Union in
England favours a six-month stand-down for converts - thereby making the Harlequins option impossibly unattractive - but the

py to have Davies and anyone else whenever they could come.

He will not be alone. "Jonathan will set the groundrules for everyone else," David Young, like Davies in Cardiff for the Rugby League World Cup, said. Phil Ford, another memher of the Welsh squad, said yesterday during a visit to the Arms Park that he intended rejoining union at the end of the tournament. Ford would be keen to join his brother, Steve, at Cardiff, with Pontypridd a

the next week whether to release Davies and for how much. Cardiff's interest has caused them to appreciate that their asset has a value over and above the salary they would save but Davies appears to have made up his mind and Cardiff are impatient to sign him before the Heineken League cut-off point at the end of the month.

While Gareth Davies was preparing to meet Graham Armstrong, the Warrington chief executive, Peter Higham, the chairman, was declaring that

and no negotiations were taking place. Which used to be the way chairmen talked when they were about to conclude a major signing from rugby union.

However, Higham did make his club's position clear: "Jonathan is under contract until 30 June 1997 and if he was to leave before then we would expect to be compensated as we would in the case of any player."

This may be less of a stumbling block than it appeared yesterday. "We told them quite clearly that there is no big mon-

contracts," Gareth Davies said. The position is that they have to ask themselves whether they have an unhappy player not performing to his best or whether they allow him to return."

Yesterday Jonathan Davies' only comment, on BBC Radio was: "If I'm going to make a move again it's back to Wales. The family want to come home and hopefully it can be sorted out on friendly terms."

John Dawes, the former Wales and Lions captain and coach, has already called for his



Davies: meeting in Cardiff

Wales's outside half but as cap. tain as soon as he is re-signed. Meriow happy to pay, page 31,

'Hauge hitch' in **Bohinen** transfer

Football PHIL SHAW

Blackburn Rovers' bid to sign Lars Bohinen, Nottingham Forest's Norwegian international midfielder, was close to collapse last night because of the possible involvement of the disgraced agent, Rune Hauge, in the proposed £700,000 transfer.

Hauge, whose licence was suspended by Fifa, football's world governing body, after his role in the George Graham affair, does not officially act for Bohinen. The player's agent when he joined Nottingham Forest from Young Boys Berne two years ago was a Swiss lawyer, Andy Gross, but speculation about Hauge's part in brokering his projected move to Ewood Park prompted Blackburn to seek clarification from the FA before proceeding.

Both Blackburn and Bohinen would face severe penalties from Fifa if the deal went through and it transpired that Hauge, a fellow Norwegian, had any sort of role in it. An FA official warned last night that the player could be banned for 12 months and fined 50,000

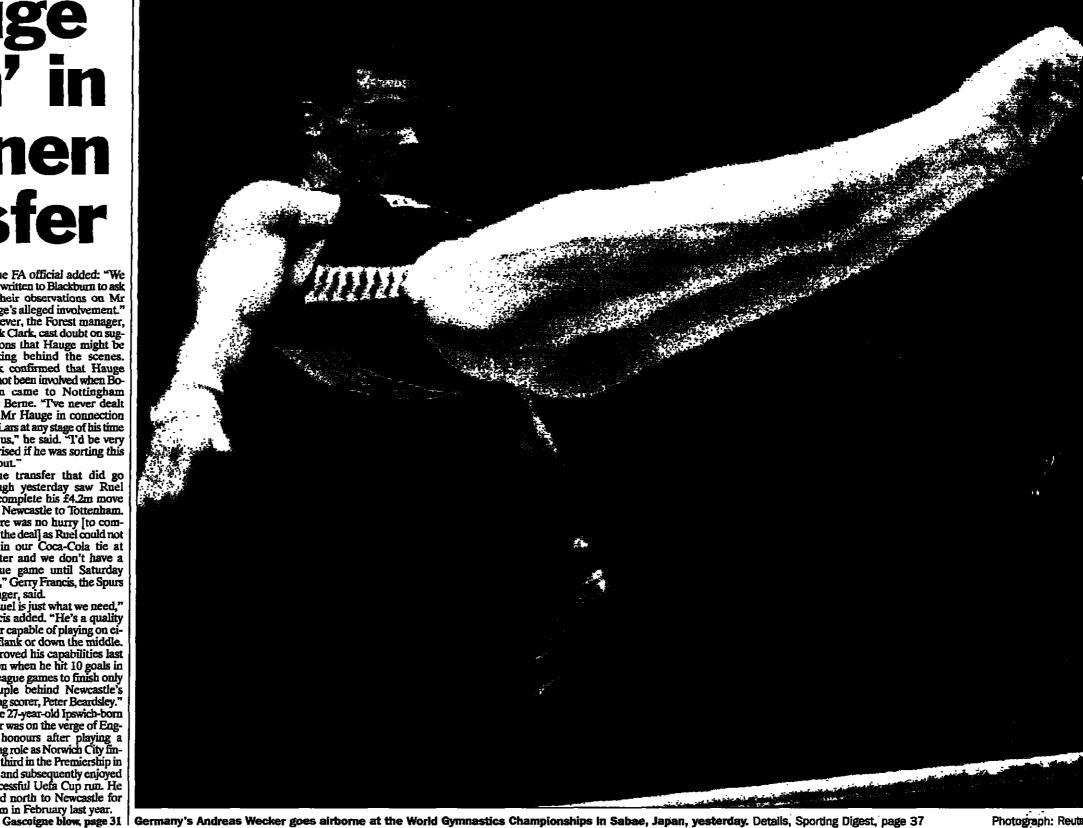
Swiss francs (£28,000). Among the penalties Black-burn might face were a fine of 100,000 Swiss francs, a worldwide ban from all transfer activity and possible suspension from football. In the circumstances, the champions seem certain to put their pursuit of Bohinen on hold until they are certain of Hauge's role.

The FA official added: "We have written to Blackburn to ask for their observations on Mr Hauge's alleged involvement." However, the Forest manager. Frank Clark, cast doubt on suggestions that Hauge might be working behind the scenes. Clark confirmed that Hauge had not been involved when Bohinen came to Nottingham from Berne. "Tve never dealt with Mr Hauge in connection with Lars at any stage of his time with us," he said. "I'd be very surprised if he was sorting this

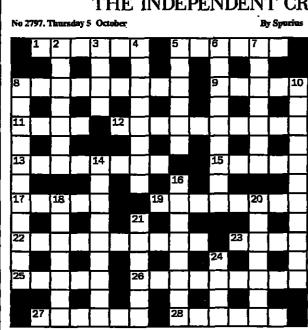
One transfer that did go through yesterday saw Ruel Fox complete his £4.2m move from Newcastle to Tottenham. There was no hurry [to complete the deal as Ruel could not play in our Coca-Cola tie at Chester and we don't have a League game until Saturday week," Gerry Francis, the Spurs manager, said.

"Ruel is just what we need," Francis added. "He's a quality player capable of playing on either flank or down the middle. He proved his capabilities last season when he hit 10 goals in 40 League games to finish only a couple behind Newcastle's leading scorer, Peter Beardsley.

The 27-year-old Ipswich-born player was on the verge of England honours after playing a leading role as Norwich City finished third in the Premiership in 1993, and subsequently enjoyed a successful Uefa Cup run. He moved north to Newcastle for £2.25m in February last year.



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

8 Bland, unoriginal piece sure 26 Make statutory provision af-to come in for a pasting (9) ter member is dead (9) 9 A dessert's sent back—it's on 27 Goods hastily disposed of, in

11 Fool takes on dangerous 28 bends no matter what (4) 12 Chips, for instance, produced by a virtuoso? (4, 6) 2 13 Phone located by the fence?

15 Light from church on hill (5) 3 17 Living quarters about to be provided for chaplain (5) 4 19 It makes you sick generally

no end to it (8) 22 Problem involving an inordinate number of units? (10) U B A B N O T TI GIOTTO ADMIRING C O I E S Z H INSECT ADHERENT

Long-range weapon has 6 South African endorsement Assurance concessionaire Backing for newspaper the 25 For clearing—a collection of 7 Viennese should hold in es-violin strings, about a pound

(5) 8 Make statutory provision af-10 ter member is dead (9) the main (6) Comeback for Jerusalem

pressman is rumoured (6)
DOWN Having organic disease caused by chewing pencils? Ready to complain, having lost head (4)

Duplicated English exercise externally assessed (8) Open University student almost swallowed by fish - not an everyday occurrence (6) 24 Fizzy drink bottled in Hast-

will be enriched by gold's up-He'll usually have several layers around him (7) Spell disaster? (6, 5) Extreme article on beer

evokes outstanding support 14 Church in middle of island stands on these rocky, glacial features (3, 6) 16 Requirement for photogra-

phy exhibition put on by Enfield, maybe? (5-3) 18 Passing with no difficulty after a month? (7) 20 I'm embraced by girl with ugly face (7) Race attack involves leading

characters in loathsome organisation (6)

Edmundo in new they'll get a fight," Washington

Overseas football

Edmundo, the Brazilian striker who is nicknamed the "Animal", was involved in a brawl as a South American Supercup quarter-fi-nal ended in an ugiy brawl. Flamengo were 3-0 up against

Velez Sarsfield of Argentina in injury time on Tuesday night when Edmundo - who had scored one goal and set up another - slapped defender Zandona after being struck by the Argentinian's elbow in a challenge for the ball. Zandona responded with another slap and then punched the Brazilian striker to the ground. Within seconds, the match degenerated into a fight with players and coaching staff from both teams swapping

Dozens of police separated the two sides before the referee, Ernesto Fillipi, ended the

punches and kung-fu kicks.

Rodrigues, the radio commentator turned Flamengo manager, said after the match. Edmundo's striking partner,

Romario, apparently was prepared for the punch-up. "This is the kind of thing we expect from the Argentines," he said. As well as Edmundo's goal, an own goal by Pellegrino in the first

half and a late strike by Romario gave Flamengo their 3-0 win and a 6-2 aggregate victory. The Supercup is contested by former winners of South America's Möhlmann is about to be Copa Libertadores for national champions.

In Germany, Uwe Seeler, the former international striker, yesterday took over as chairman of his old club, Hamburg, with the aim of steering it out of its current crisis. A statement issued by Seeler and the club's treasurer, Gerhard Flomm, one of two board members who deatch. cided to step down to make way but have won nothing since "If they want a fight, then for a group led by Seeler, said lifting the German Cup in 1987.

the changes were purely in the interests of the club, and that the move by the former player was not inspired by emotion.

Seeler, 58, who played for West Germany against England in the 1966 World Cup final and shares the record of 21 World Cup appearances, will take over on an interim basis pending a 27 November annual meeting.

Hamburg are next to the bottom of the Bundesliga without a win all season, and speculation is rife that coach Benno sacked, possibly in favour of his. deputy and former Hamburg player, Felix Magath.

Seeler is still a hero at the club where he remains the alltime top scorer with 137 goals. Hamburg, who won the European Cup in 1983 when Magath scored the goal that beat Juventus in the final, have been league champions seven times but have won nothing since

Hendry secures swift victory

Snooker

Stephen Hendry, the world champion, defeated Terry Griffiths for the 15th time in succession to reach the semi-finals of the Thailand Classic in Bangkok yesterday.

Hendry secured a 5-0 win in 70 minutes and will meet either John Higgins or John Parrott for a place in the final of a tournament which carries a first prize of £40,000.

"I'm not as psyched up for this event as I was for the Reand his local fan club by knockgal Masters at Motherwell," Hendry said after the whitewas the second-round result wash. "But to stay in that sort Finbow, a 27-year-old from of mood week in, week out is very difficult. It also doesn't mean that I don't want to win world, led 3-0 but after seven over here. I reckon I have as frames was one behind. A break

good a chance as anyone of of 107 then forced the decider picking up the trophy on Sat- before he wrapped up the

Hendry scored breaks of 83, "Considering where I was 68, 60 and 40 as he strolled to and what happened, this has to victory against the new-look be a very special win for me."
Griffiths, who is now wearing Finbow said. "But I couldn't be-Griffiths, who is now wearing glasses. Hendry also had a 5-0 lieve some of the shots James win in his last meeting with Grif-fiths, in the 1992 Dubai Duty played. He had the first frame in the bag, but then somehow Free, and in overall frames begave me the chance to win it on the black tween the pair holds a 114-38

"I thought the crowd might The unheralded Dave Finbe a little partisan, but they were bow stunned James Wattana great throughout the match and applauded when I played ing out the home favourite. It some good shots,"

Joe Swail, a former English the Thai fans did not want as amateur champion, defeated Jimmy White 5-3 to claim his first victory over the world No 7 in four attempts.

Results, Sporting Digest,



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Worcester, won 5-4.

Finbow, ranked 47th in the